



# Pakistan has footage of downed Indian jets, claims Naqvi

- Interior minister highlights intelligence agencies' role in May conflict
- Insists key bases incurred no significant damage during Indian strikes
- International community rejected India's narrative on Pahalgam, says Senate chairman

By Amjad Mahmood

**LAHORE:** Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday claimed that Pakistan has videos of the six Indian jets shot down during the May conflict.

Addressing a seminar on the 'Impact of Pakistan's Military and Diplomatic Victories on International Media' at Aiwan-e-Iqbal on Sunday, Naqvi said that while radar data had confirmed the downing of Indian aircraft, the government chose to withhold public announcements until physical evidence was obtained.

He added that video clips from the sites were collected "within no time", highlighting Pakistan's intelligence capability.

In the immediate aftermath of the aerial battle, photos had emerged from Indian-held Kashmir of the mangled fuselage of a fighter jet and its wreckage in Indian firing circuit. Other pictures were circulated online, which could not be verified at the time.

"Some people do not refrain from slandering intelligence agencies, but during the conflict, Pakistan's intelligence agencies performed exceptionally well," Mr Naqvi said.

"Our institutions had information on India's (plans) well ahead of time. We knew whatever they (India) planned, what aircraft

Continued on Page 3

## Govt may allow new gas connections with fee hike

- 120,000 connections for LNG-based piped supply planned in first year • Move comes amid push to address continuing glut in gas network

By Khaleeq Kiani

**ISLAMABAD:** The government is almost set to allow new gas connections at the price of imported LNG, around Rs3,900 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu) at the current rate – and almost four times the current connection fee.

Sources told Dawn that a summary note was moved by the federal cabinet for lifting the ban on new connections, with a first-year target of 120,000.

Priority would be given to applicants who had previously been issued orders and notices or had paid the urgent fee but could not get connections because of a subsequent ban. The number of new

connections would be enhanced for next year, with up to 300,000 applicants fall in this category, who would have to file affidavits not to approach the courts for their past claims and the connection fee increase.

Before the ban, consumers were allowed to pay an urgent fee of Rs25,000 for a connection on a priority basis, unlike the routine Rs5,000-Rs7,500 fee. On the other hand, a new LNG connection earlier cost Rs15,000.

At present, more than 3.5 million applications for new connections have been received by the gas companies. While new connections provide an additional avenue for the gas companies to claim a guaranteed return on fixed assets

Continued on Page 5

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Continued on Page 5

## As monsoon wrecks havoc, only fraction of cars insured

- Just 2.5pc vehicles have coverage, leaving millions of owners at risk • Experts urge government to make insurance mandatory

By Aamir Shafiq Khan  
in Karachi

WITH the country currently in the grip of catastrophic monsoon rains, every passing day brings with it more reports of deaths and destruction.

Among the losses to life and property, images of damaged vehicles either swept up by floodwaters or battered by falling debris – have become a commonplace sight.

Alongside lost homes, businesses and civic amenities, damage to vehicles constitutes a major chunk of the losses incurred by people.

According to insurance experts, however, the uptake for motor vehicle coverage in the country stands at a paltry 2.5 per cent. Take, for example, the freak



NON-CUSTOMS paid vehicles, such as those widely used across the Malakand division, are usually not insured.—AFP

hailstorm that inflicted millions of rupees worth of damage to vehicles across Islamabad earlier this year.

According to data from around 12 insurance and takafal operators (out of a total of 28 providers), around 958 vehicle repair claims were received in the wake of the hailstorm from the federal capital and its adjoining areas in April 2025.

The insurance sector put the gross claim amount at around Rs144 million.

But this figure only includes those who had insured and opted to go for repair. Given the massive bills and long queues for repair work in the aftermath of the hailstorm, many vehicle owners chose to avail offers for discounted repairs offered by carmakers themselves, or took their business to their local 'ustaad'.

According to an insurance company official, who asked not to be identified as he is not authorised to speak to the media, the insurance sector had served around 250 customers, with a total payment estimate of around Rs30 million during FY25 alone.

A majority of these claims came from Islamabad and its surrounding areas, where most vehicles were for saloon or sedan vehicles.

He highlighted that parts shortages, such as the one created in the wake of the Islamabad hailstorm, put pressure on supply, leading to a price rise. This is exactly what was witnessed in the wake of the damage from the hailstorm, with workshops and technicians working hard due to the sky-high demand for parts such as windshields.

The insurance official claimed

Continued on Page 5

Govt working to expand Raast, digitise economy: PM

By Our Staff Reporter

**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the government is working on a priority basis to digitise the economy and shift financial transactions to a cashless digital system.

During a review meeting on cashless economy in Islamabad on Sunday, he directed all the provincial chief secretaries to fully cooperate with the federal government in expanding the Raast digital payment system to the district level.

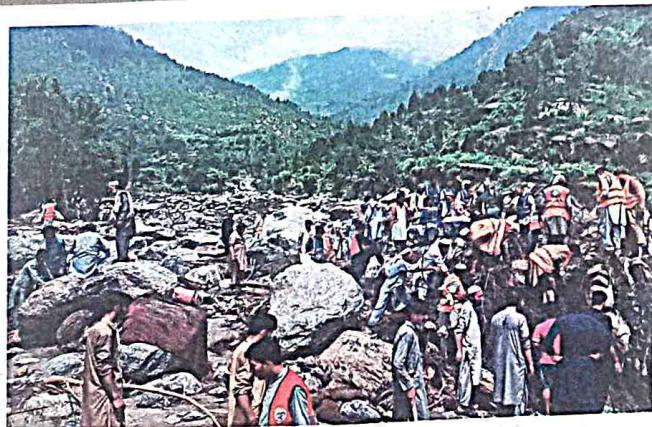
The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the progress made towards a cashless economy and digital financial systems.

The meeting was briefed that Pakistan will develop digitalisation of its infrastructure to create digital IDs for every citizen, integrating national identity cards, biometrics and mobile numbers.

These digital IDs will enable secure and efficient payments.

It was further said that the central government have shown significant progress in linking government-to-public and public-to-government payments with the Raast system.

The meeting was informed that the federal development agencies have granted Right of Way for fibre connectivity, while discussions are ongoing with Pakistan Railways and the National Highway Authority to expand digital infrastructure.



BUNER: Locals assist rescue personnel as they try to remove heavy rocks and clear debris from damaged buildings that were obliterated by the raging floodwaters.—AFP

More coverage on Metro pages

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa picks up the pieces after deadly deluge

- At least 323 dead, 150 missing since Aug 14; PM orders ministers to supervise KCR relief efforts • 657 lives lost nationwide since June 26; NDMA warns of more rain spells next month • Food shortages, lack of utilities take hold as parts of GB remain cut off • Flows in Punjab rivers subside to 'low flood' levels

By Umer Farooq  
and Aamir Yasin

the Buner and Shangla districts, around 150 people are still missing.

He added that rescue operations were underway and that five armed forces helicopters were at the disposal of the provincial government.

More rain in Sept

With heavy monsoon rains continuing until August 22, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Spokesperson Dr Tayyab Shah warned on Sunday that two to three more spells of heavy rain are expected to hit the country in September.

Out of the initial release of Rs500m, the allocation included Rs150m for Buner, Rs100m for Abbottabad, Rs50m for Swat, Rs40m each for Mingora, Swat, and Charsadda, and Rs10m each for Upper Kohistan, Lower Kohistan, and Kohi

Pala, he added.

The PDMA DG further said that 33 trucks of non-food items had reached Buner, eight had reached Swat and seven had reached Bajaur, while additional supplies were also being dispatched.

More rain in Sept

In Punjab since June 26 at 657, with 229 injured. Of the total casualties, 172 were children, 94 women, and 392 men.

KP province alone accounted for 390 deaths, including 288 men, 51 children, and 43 women, underscoring the province's disproportionate vulnerability to seasonal downpours and flash floods.

In Punjab, 164 people including, 63 children, 63 men, and 31 women, have died in weather-related incidents since June 26.

Sindh has recorded 28 deaths, including 14 children, 10 men, and 4 women.

In Balochistan, 20 fatalities, including 11 children, 5 men, and 4 women were reported.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, the toll reached 32 deaths, comprising 18 men, 8 children, and 6 women.

Azad Jammu and

Continued on Page 5

## ON OTHER PAGES



### Suspects held for 'obscenity' released

A judicial magistrate orders the release of five individuals, including two transpersons, arrested for allegedly publishing an 'objectionable' private party in Lahore, dismissing the case due to lack of evidence. The police had arrested two transgender persons, Isha Hassan and Soop Butt, along with three others – Junaid Muhammad Ali, and Sawai Shahid on Saturday. Page 2



### Squad named for Asia Cup, T20 tri-series

The Pakistan selectors have backed emerging players in a squad named for the upcoming T20 tri-series and Asia Cup. The absence of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan from the 17-member squad confirms they remain out of plans for the shortest formats. Mohammad Farhan and Saeem Ayub now seem as better top-order fits for modern T20. Page 18



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## Carec contract under parliamentary scrutiny for 'glaring lapses'

• NHA criticised for awarding contract to joint venture in violation of rules • Two other projects completed by same JV also on lawmakers' radar for 'irregularities'

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Several parliamentary committees have raised serious concern over an international road-building project funded by the Asian Development Bank, citing alleged collusive practices and ghost tendering among other irregularities by the National Highway Authority in the award of the project.

The standing committee of the Senate and the National Assembly on Economic Affairs Division (EAD) and communications, as well as a sub-committee of the Senate's communication panel, have reviewed the contract for the past four months. The NHA, however, did not provide documents to these committees to contest allegations against it.

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (Carec) Tranche-III project is worth Re170 billion and has invited parliamentary scrutiny, particularly due to its award to a firm that had been disqualified by the NHA over two years ago.

Documents seen by Dawn indicated that one of the firms in the joint venture was disqualified by the highway authority in 2023 for failing to complete the project on time. Most of the project, but it was still allowed to submit technical and financial bids for the Tranche III project.

The committee maintained that the firm was currently involved in litigation related to the

Multan-Lodhran project. It further observed that the Tranche-III contracts were initially awarded based on audit sheets without verifying the credentials of the firms involved.

The standing committee observed that despite violations of Public Procurement Authority (PPRA) rules pointed out by the parliamentary bodies, the NHA chose to keep the award of the contract intact with the controversial JV.

In the Aug 2 meeting of the Senate EAD committee, the NHA was given a final 15-day deadline to come up with all documents required by the committee, and the NHA submitted no new documents to the NHA that were not part of the bid documents.

In one of such meetings, the Senate body termed the case of the Tranche-III as a clear-cut case of corruption and directed the NHA to wrap up the bidding process and start anew.

The Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Project, which was created in 1997 to encourage economic cooperation among countries in the Central Asian region, has held a detailed discussion on the Gilt-Shandur motorway project, noting that there were several irregularities and signs of collusive practices in the project.

Referring to the 'Hanzel Hydropower Project', the committee revealed that the work was completed on May 7, 2024, and the work was completed on May 7, 2025. However, the bid documents for the project were submitted in September 2024, and the same project was included in the audit reports for the financial year 2023-24.

It further observed that despite the fact that the bid documents for the Tranche III project were submitted in September 2024, and the same project was included in the audit reports for the financial year 2023-24.

In its recent report, PPRA endorsed the findings of the standing committee and directed the NHA to provide relevant documents regarding the financial and technical strength of the joint venture.

Although the NHA officials have agreed to provide all the relevant documents to the committee and PIA, under the PPRA rules, contractors cannot submit any new documents to the NHA that were not part of the bid documents.

Two more projects on radar

Besides the Carec project, two other projects in the portfolio of the JV invited the scrutiny of lawmakers. The panel held a detailed discussion on the Gilt-Shandur motorway project, noting that there were several irregularities and signs of collusive practices in the project.

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Attendees included Senator Aimal Wali Khan, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, PML-N's Irfan Siddiqui and PPP's Nayyer Bukhari, among others.

In a joint declaration, the participants condemned all forms of terrorism and extremism, which they alleged were a result of past policies, and stressed the need for new steps to address the issues.

The declaration suggested an end

## Pakistan has footage of downed jets: Naqvi

Continued from Page 1

differences through talks. Dialogue is critical to resolving differences," he added.

'Demanding restraint'

Senate Chairman Youssaf Raza Gillani, who presided over the event, said that all institutions played a key role in Pakistan's victory against India, and the international community rejected India's false narrative on the Palgham incident.

He further demonstrated restraint along with defense so that tensions in the region did not escalate, while the Pakistani armed forces impressed the world by demonstrating their professionalism and readiness," he said.

The parliament supported the armed forces through unanimous resolutions and highlighted the national stance, he added.

Punjab Assembly Speaker



PUNJAB Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmed Khan and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi present a souvenir to Senator Chairman Youssaf Raza Gillani at the seminar held at Alwan-i-Iqbal.—APP

Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan being profound and far-reaching

said that Pakistan had achieved remarkable success in both military and diplomatic spheres, leaving

"Pakistan has not only proven its military strength but has also

consolidated its position on the diplomatic front, a fact acknowledged by the international community," Mr Khan said.

He added that successful counter-terrorism operations and an effective foreign policy had presented Pakistan as a responsible and strong nation on the global stage.

Highlighting the role of military leadership, the speaker said that under the command of Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's military strategy had become even more effective, thwarting India's aggressive designs and maintaining the balance of power in the region.

He further stated that exposing India's aggressive attitude at the global level was a major achievement for Pakistan. "Now is the time to leverage these military and diplomatic successes to boost the country's economic and trade sectors, paving the way for sustainable development," he added.

PTI reiterates demand for May 9 probe

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Sunday reiterated its demand for an empowered judicial commission to probe all national tragedies since the country's inception, including the May 9 and November 26 incidents.

The party repeated its demand in light of an article published in Jang newspaper, detailing a meeting between the author and the army chief in Brussels. The author claimed that the army chief had linked "political reconciliation to sincere apology".

PTI's spokesperson Shiekh Waqas Ahmad, in a statement, said the main aim of so-called political apology was part of a private discussion with a journalist, reiterating that the party and its leadership had consistently demanded an impartial probe into the matter.

He alleged that the political apology was being deliberately recycled in the media to distract the nation from the grave crises it faced today and to protect those who looted Pakistan's wealth and committed crimes.

He reiterated the party's demand for an empowered judicial commission, comprising judges of unquestionable integrity, to probe all national tragedies, from the Fall of Dhaka to the May 9 violence, within a mandate of one month on Feb 8. The PTI leader said that every individual guilty of these crimes against the nation must be brought to justice without exception, regardless of rank, office, or influence.

## ANP-led MPC declares past policies 'a failure'

Calls for an end to military operations in KP, Balochistan

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: A multiparty conference (MPC) on Sunday declared that past internal and foreign policies are responsible for the current instability and terrorism plaguing Pakistan, particularly in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.

The conference, organised by the Awami National Party (ANP), asserted that peace and development are not possible without democracy,

the supremacy of the constitution, and granting rights to the provinces.

Although 20 political parties attended the conference, the PTI was absent. According to ANP leader, the PTI was invited to give a speech but no prominent leader from the party attended on Sunday.

Attendees included Senator Aimal Wali Khan, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, PML-N's Irfan Siddiqui and PPP's Nayyer Bukhari, among others.

In a joint declaration, the participants condemned all forms of terrorism and extremism, which they alleged were a result of past policies, and stressed the need for new steps to address the issues.

The declaration suggested an end

to military operations in KP and Balochistan and called for a Constitutional Commission to establish judicial oversight.

The participants also demanded the abolition of so-called "death squads" and illegal armed groups to protect citizens.

The conference urged for the full implementation of the 18th Constitutional Amendment and suggested that non-constitutional bodies, especially the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), should be abolished.

The participants stated that the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award should be implemented as per the Constitution and that the rights of provinces over their minerals and resources must be granted.

The declaration also suggested the cancellation of land allotments in Balochistan and KP.

On human rights, the group called for enforced disappearance, a violation of the Constitution and demanded that all missing persons be recovered and provided justice.

They also called for the release of political prisoners, the lifting of travel restrictions on politician Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, and the abolition of the PECA Act to ensure media freedom.

The declaration stated that Pakistan should not participate in foreign wars and should remain neutral. It called for historic trade routes to be reopened and for the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their homes.

It also demanded a stop to the forced repatriation of Afghan refugees.

Additionally, the group rejected a proposal to merge the Levies force with the paramilitary agencies and demanded the merging of the Frontier Constabulary with the Federal Constabulary.

The declaration demanded that all powers in the merged districts be transferred to the civil administration and that laws like the "Action in Aid of Civil Power" be repealed.

The declaration concluded with a demand for a relief package for flood-affected districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and for Rescue 1122 vehicles to be handed over to the provincial government.

However, PML-N and PPP refused to sign the joint declaration.

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## Woman remanded in police custody for killing minor son, daughter

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate on Sunday remanded a woman in police custody on a case pertaining to the killing of her two minor children.

The investigating officer (IO) of the case brought Adeeba, 37, before the duty judicial magistrate (South) and sought her physical custody for 14 days.

According to the IO, the court was informed that the complainant, Ghulran Khalid, had lodged an FIR stating that on Aug 14, at around 2:30pm, he received a phone call from his ex-wife, Adeeba. During the call, she asked him if he knew what she had done. When he replied in the negative, she made a video call and showed him that she had murdered their two children, who had been staying with her.

Subsequently, the father of the minors informed his relatives about the incident and later stated that his ex-wife had killed the children with a sharp-edged weapon.

The IO sought her physical remand to interrogate her and ascertain the source of the crime weapon.

After hearing the IO, the court remanded her in police custody for two days and directed the officer to submit a progress report at the next hearing.

According to the police, they had recovered the knife used in the double murder. They added that the couple had separated last year and the issue of custody of the children was taken to a family court, which gave the decision in favour of the father. However, the mother was allowed to meet her children.

## 'Gangster' shot dead in Pak Colony

KARACHI: A suspected gangster was gunned down and his friend critically wounded in an attack allegedly carried out by his rival gang members on Manghopir Road within the remit of the Pak Colony police station, police said on Sunday.

They added that Asif Ali, 30, and Rizwan Suleman, 35, were heading to Old Golimar on a motorbike when they were targeted by unknown assailants.

The police said that Asif died on the spot while Suleman was shifted to a hospital in critical condition.—Staff Reporter



KARACHI: Picnickers throng Seaview beach to cool off as the metropolis experiences a sudden change in weather due to approaching monsoon currents, which are expected to bring rains.—Shakil Adil / White Star

## Challenging karo-kari, strong women forge sisterhood in rural Sindh

By Shazia Hasan

SUKKUR: Slowly but surely there is a silent revolution under way in the villages of Sindh and it is because of a movement started by the government-financed Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), which works towards women-focused community mobilisation and education.

The SRSO basically works towards the uplift of talented folks by making them realise that they 'can do anything'. This they do by providing them training for setting up businesses followed by giving out interest-free loans to make their self-reliant. But in giving them new directions, even the SRSO is pleasantly surprised to notice a positive "side effect" to its efforts — women's empowerment. It not only makes them financially independent, but also resilient, bold, and confident enough to

stand up for their rights and challenge illegal practices like karo-kari. They have become role models who give strength to others to stand up against such social conditions. It is a sisterhood no other.

Hafeza from Ghotki said that she had proved herself by running small businesses, for which she got training from the SRSO. "They also taught us how to save money, keep accounts, respectable men," said Hafeza. She got married through the sisterhood of strong women she met at the SRSO and her union council that she was able to save her son and niece, who were wrongly accused and being sentenced in a case of karo-kari.

"My son and my nieces and my sister's daughters were locked up due to misunderstanding by the people of my village. They would have been killed for sure had I not reached out to the women in our working groups. They said to me that I am always there for them so they

needed help. Saving our

needy, helping our

models who were

also taken aback.

Somehow we locked up

their leaders while free-

ing our children whom we

helped escape. Safe now,

they have both moved on

with their lives

individually.

Naseem Khoso of

Shikarpur said that ear-

lier if anyone, even the

police, had heard of any

domestic issue or accusa-

tions of karo-kari they

would not interfere saying

that people should be

allowed to handle their

personal issues. "But the

SRSO works through local

support organisations of

which we are also a part.

The local support organi-

sation in our union council heard about a

case where the husband of a woman

would gamble. During a gambling argu-

ment he accused the man he had lost

his money to his wife. No one in the village

came to the woman's rescue until we got

to hear of the matter," she said.

"It was pressure from our women

groups that the Superintendent of Police

sent out as many as seven mobiles to

track down the man and bring him to

rescue her. Today, she has fetched life

afresh somewhere else and is happily

married," said Naseem. "All this courage

we could only gather after realising our

worth and potential. We don't need any

help, we will go on. We have to help ourselves, no one will come forth to help us," she added.

When Mahina Malhar's older son fell

sick, the poor peasant woman could not

afford the medication prescribed for

him. She bought a small bottle of antibiotic which cost 350 rupees. I sold

my nose pin then which fetched only half

of the amount so I bought fever medicine

and cough syrup for my son from that

money. It could not help him and I lost

him that day," she said.

"But on that day, I promised myself to

never be caught in such a helpless situa-

tion again," she added.

Through a loan of just Rs15,000 from

the SRSO in 2009, Mahnaz bought a lit-  
tle calf. In three years it fetched her

Rs120,000. She also enrolled in train-  
ing through SRSO and met many like-

minded women, there.

"I had studied only up to class three.

But I'm a matriculate today," she says.

She also runs a small restaurant in

Shikarpur. I also started working with

the union council of my area. If I find

anyone sick or unable to leave

their home, I take them to the doctors

immediately," she said.

Mahnaz's son fell ill again and she

had to sell her restaurant to pay for his

treatment.

Her son is now healthy again and

she is back to work again.

"I am a strong woman," she said.

ness about what I'm capable of," she

concludes.

Khalida Paveen of Ghotki said that

things started changing for the better as

they changed themselves for the better.

"When we changed, the attitudes of peo-

ple towards us also changed," she

pointed out.

Rukhsana Sariki of Jacobabad said

that the SRSO was a dream of the late

prime minister Benazir Bhutto for the

women of Sindh. "She wanted to see us

empowered and strong. Today, Bilawal

and Asifa, her children are witnessing

the realisation of their mother's dream,"

she said, becoming a little emotional.

Aliya Naheed of Jacobabad said that they

were a part of many of the SRSO's projec-

ts, which tell them about their legal

rights. "For instance, in 2020, we also

took part in some training sessions orga-

nised by the UN Women against vio-

lence," she said.

"Earlier, we just used to be kept under

the control of individuals because we used

to be dependent on our families for our liveli-

hoods. We had no schooling, no money, no

awareness and no respect so we

wouldn't question anything. But now after becoming aware, we can also

snatch our rights from those who don't

give them," she said.

The SRSO's CEO, Mohammad

Zulfiqar Kalhoro, popularly known as

"Dilat Saain", said that it was their

vision to socially and economically

empower communities through women-

focused community mobilisation pro-

grammes. "The Sindh government sup-

ports our policy to alleviate poverty by

providing resources. The rest these peo-

ple do for themselves," he concluded.

## Fashion fraternity unites to make Runway SS'25 a big success

By Faisal Quraishi



MODELS wear Mahi's Couture at the show.

—Photo courtesy Osprey Productions

cuts on tall and statuesque models in a blaze of sparkling sequins, lace fabrics, flowing cascading dupattas and skirts, featuring intricate detailed hand embroidery, structured cuts and fitting silhouettes.

Actress Zahra Raza was the showstopper in the segment. For Mahi's causal collection, the design house put on the tall and statuesque ramp models attired in corsets and casual, free-flowing outfit that perfectly complimented the aesthetic sensibilities of the smart, young hip crowd, while introducing fashion-forward approach to casual-wear.

The fashion thesis students from the Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE) showed intricately crafted costumes with structured cuts and fruit skin peels, textured elements found freely in nature, social influences and issues facing urban communities, all woven into the costumes to create an impacting and resounding social statement. The segment saw transgender rights activists Kami Chaudhry walk for the MITE students in a showstopper creation, drawing a rapturous round of applause.

Ramzan made his debut as a bridal couturier on the Runway SS'25 with highly innovative bridal looks specially curated for the segment by the official hair and make-up artists.

## DAWN ONLINE ACADEMY

By Numan Khan

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# Mushahid pushes for 'Mandela Model'

Highlights revolutionary leader's legacy of forgiveness, generosity, and voluntary transfer of power after one presidential term

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed has urged Asian and African countries ruled by "power-hungry" leaders to adopt the "Mandela Model" of peace, reconciliation and democracy.

Speaking at the inaugural African Political Parties Summit in Ghana, which was attended by more than 200 delegates from over 40 countries, Mr. Mushahid said that Nelson Mandela's approach provides a blueprint for political stability and inclusive government.

The senator participated as co-chairman of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) and president of PAIDAR, Pakistan's first think tank focused on Africa, his office said in a statement on Sunday.

Drawing on his personal interactions with Mandela, Mr. Mushahid said he was convinced that the South African leader's legacy was rooted in forgiveness, generosity, and a refusal to be shackled by vengeance.

"The Mandela Model rejects policies of vendetta and victimisation, which only trap societies in the past," he noted.

He added that Mandela championed inclusive, institutional democracy by treating public office as a public trust, and set a historic precedent by stepping down voluntarily after single elected term as president.

"Most of Asia and Africa suffers from power-hungry politicians," Mr. Mushahid regretted.

Palestine and Kashmir

He also highlighted Mandela's unwavering support for the causes of self-determination in Palestine and Kashmir, describing him as a principled statesman who stood by oppressed peoples.

During his visit, the senator met Ghana's Vice President Jane Naana, Chief of Staff Julius Debrah, and Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister Ibrahim Faraj, among other leaders. He also paid tribute at the mausoleum of Ghana's first president, Kwame Nkrumah, whom he cited as a pioneer of Pan-African unity and non-alignment.

In Accra, Mr. Mushahid addressed a Pakistan Day gathering, interacted with African think tanks, media, and business leaders, and expressed hope for stronger Pakistan-Africa ties in diplomacy, trade, investment, education, IT, and cooperation on mining and critical minerals.

## Four hurt in grenade attack on police van

By Ali Jan Mangi

law enforcement personnel rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to the district hospital.

Hospital sources said the condition of two of the injured officers was critical and the Quetta bound for further treatment.

The injured were identified as police officer Qadir Baksh and constable Ibrahim Abdur Rehman Ghani. The police mobile was also damaged in the explosion.

Security forces have launched a search operation in the area to apprehend the attackers. Further investigation into the incident is underway.

## Man held for kidnapping, marrying minor

By Abdul Wahid Shahwani

KHUZDAR: Levies on Sunday arrested a man in Zehri for forcibly marrying a 12-year-old girl after he had kidnapped the minor from Sindh and brought her to Balochistan.

Officials said the minor was kidnapped from the Hala area of Sindh and brought to Zehri's Baghban area where the suspect married her.

Khudar Deputy Commissioner Yasir Iqbal Dashi said after receiving the information about the kidnapped girl, the Levies and the police's CIA team arrested the suspect at his house in the Radhani village, where the girl was confined by the suspect. They also raided the house and recovered the girl.

The information revealed that the suspect abducted the minor from Hala and shifted her to Baghban in Zehri tehsil, where he married her against her will. The victim told the authorities that the suspect tortured her and subjected her to abuse

as well as force her to marry him.

As a result of the blast, four officers sustained injuries. Police and other

## One killed as Karachi-bound train derails at Lodhran

Continued from Page 1

line in a bid to restore the rail traffic on Main Line.

As many as four trains, including 6 Down, 48 Down and 39 Up, delayed for hours.

The initial investigation held the driver responsible for the derailment. "Had he applied brakes well earlier, he would have avoided the crash. We have reached a consensus that he failed to stop the train on Line No. 5, left with no option but to enter the sand-hump," it concluded.

On the other hand, senior PR officials held faulty dummy coaches responsible for the accident and requested the federal minister for railways to thoroughly get this aspect investigated.

"In fact, the reports mentioned on papers are different than the practical situation. On board, there was one dummy coach (the coach without brake). But I think it is not correct, because if there is one dummy among 12 coaches, the driver would have succeeded in stopping the train without any issue."

This means, there were around 5/6 coaches that were dummy but not mentioned in the papers.

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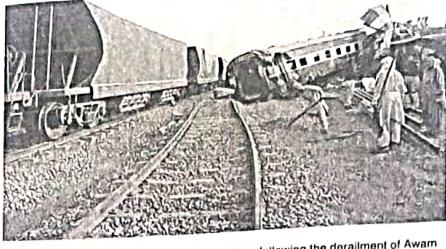
## FIA busts passport extortion, human trafficking rings

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Balochistan has arrested a man red-handed for extorting money from citizens under the pretence of issuing urgent passports, while five people involved in human trafficking were also apprehended in Tafrood and Loralai.

A spokesperson for the FIA in Balochistan said on Sunday that the accused, Abdul Malik, was detained near the Chaman Passport Office while accepting extra payments from people in exchange for expedited passport services.

"Authorities recovered 13 Pakistani passports, 51 tokens, 48



RAILWAY workers carrying out relief operations following the derailment of Awam Express near Lodhran Railway Station.—Dawn

as faulty," the officer said, requesting anonymity.

Talking about the roll-on stock, he said, "If any coaches and goods' wagons are sent to the market, lead to frequent derailment incidents."

The Federal Railways Minister, Iman Abbasi, held a meeting over an emergency meeting, reprimanded officers for not doing their job well for the safety of passengers.

The minister also ordered the officers to ground dummy coaches from the railway system

and if there is need to stop operation of any train, it must be done.

"The officers must come out of their AC offices and inspect the rail track, rolling stock etc," he said.

According to a rescuer, Muhammad Sufdar, 1122 media coordinators were rendered first aid on the spot, while 22 seriously injured including six women, were taken to DHQ hospital, Lodhran.

A press release issued by Multan Railways division, 21 passengers suffered injuries and out of them two were taken to

Bahawal Victoria Hospital (BV), Bahawalpur.

Divisional Superintendent Itikhar Ahmed of Multan also rushed to Lodhran Railway station, and told journalists that the down track has been cleared and the derailed bogies have been removed after 10 hours' struggle.

Despite derailment on the down railway track, the road, the railway traffic has not been suspended and Awam Express passengers were sent to Karachi by the Hazara Express.

## DC ordered to take over Hazara Town tube-wells to ensure smooth water supply

By Saleem Shahid

THE petitioner complained that despite political groups and private individuals were creating obstacles to water distribution, depriving many residents while favouring their own supporters.

The court observed that Wasa had failed to meet its responsibilities despite the presence of several tube-wells in the area. It instructed the deputy commissioner to coordinate with Wasa and the Health Engineering Department to establish the proper supply system, conduct a survey, and form new resident committees to oversee the operation of tube-wells.

The case was adjourned till August 26 with directions for compliance reports to be submitted at the next hearing.

## As monsoon wreaks havoc, only fraction of cars insured

Continued from Page 1

that this practice also hurts their company, which tries to find the best possible deal for their clients.

Insurance 'not the norm'

Sectoral experts say that most car owners in Pakistan do not have coverage.

Saqib Zeeshan, CEO of Pak-Qatar General Takaful, said that out of the millions of vehicles on Pakistan's roads, only about three million were covered by any insurance or takaful package.

"This is despite the presence of 28-30 companies offering attractive insurance and takaful packages. Unfortunately, they are not an insurance-oriented society, and a large segment of the population lacks basic awareness about the concept of insurance," he said.

He added that Pak-Qatar received over 60 vehicle claims from the April hailstorm alone.

"Currently, we have around 14,000 vehicles insured under Motor Takaful, which is still a small number compared to major players who handle significantly larger volumes and claims."

Lack of coverage

With widespread flooding, heavy rains, and landslides ravaging the northern parts of the country, thousands of affected vehicle owners are likely to submit claims to their respective insurers, in the hopes of compensation.

Industry experts say that a large chunk of those affected would not have insurance to begin with. Non-customs paid vehicles, such as those widely used across the Malakand Division—in areas such as Swat, Dir, Chitral—are usually not insured. The same goes for many of the private vans or buses plying on intercity routes, save for those that are part of organised fleets.

However, Mr. Zeeshan pointed out that vehicles financed through banks and leasing companies are compulsorily insured until the loan matures, i.e. the instalments are paid off.

"However, only 20pc of customers continue insurance coverage after the financing period ends. Once the loans are repaid, the insurance penetration drops drastically," he said.

The people in Pakistan view insurance or takaful as an expense rather than an investment. Given the country's propensity towards climatic disasters, this thinking needs to change.

Even though most insurance companies offer both comprehensive and third-party liability coverage, Mr. Zeeshan says the latter, which is available for a nominal premium, is often ignored.

In addition, while natural disasters are now covered under insurance policies, certain insurance packages—especially those with low premiums—still don't insure against force majeure (unforeseen circumstances or acts of God).

To address this issue, the industry has urged the government to make motor insurance mandatory. Countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have already made vehicle insurance mandatory.

"Only the government has the authority to enforce such a policy," Mr. Zeeshan said.

As per data from the Insurance Association of Pakistan (IAP), the gross premium contribution for the motor insurance segment reached Rs36.18 billion in 2024, up from Rs34bn in 2023. However, IAP does not maintain segregated data on vehicle claims resulting from natural calamities.

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa picks up the pieces after deadly deluge

Continued from Page 1

Kashmir (AJK) reported 15 casualties, evenly split among 5 men, 5 women, and 5 children while in Islamabad, 8 people died in 4 children, 3 men, and a woman.

GB situation

In Gilgit-Baltistan, a cloudburst triggered flood in Katishi village of Kharman district claimed two lives on Sunday.

Police said a woman and her daughter were swept away after the flood hit their village. The body of their daughter has been recovered, while the woman is still missing. Two other women, injured in the flood, were shifted to Skardu for treatment.

The flash flood also caused severe damage to flood-water channels, roads, and both public and private properties.

Meanwhile, rescue teams recovered the body of a four-year-old girl from under flood debris in Khatri village, Gupis Valley (Gilzer district), while the body of an elderly man was recovered in the flood on Saturday night. Both had gone missing in flash floods on Friday.

On the other hand, several major roads, including the Karakoram Highway (KKH), Baltistan Highway, Ghizer-Saidu Road, and Naran Road, along with various link roads, remained blocked, leaving thousands of people, including tourists, stranded.

As per the instructions, Federal Minister for Disaster Management and Gilgit-Baltistan engineer, Amir Ali Khan, will oversee relief distribution in Shangla and Buner; the Federal Minister for Power Division will assist in Buner; Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Yusaf will supervise operations in Mardan; and the PAF's Special Assistant Major Zeb will oversee distribution in Bajaur.

The prime minister is personally overseeing NDMA's relief operations across all flood-affected districts of KP.

Local residents faced acute shortages of drinking water, prolonged power outages, and disruption of mobile and internet connectivity in several areas.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, residents held protest demonstrations, blocking main roads against the prolonged water and electricity crisis. They said locals had been without basic utility for several days.

Ministers to supervise KP relief ops

In the wake of recent destructive rains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed federal ministers to supervise relief operations in the province.

"Under the prime minister's directives, federal ministers will participate in relief operations in the flood-affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," said an official statement from the PM Office.

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Jamil Naseer in Gilgit, Syed Irfan Raza in Islamabad and Imran Gabol in Lahore also contributed to this report

Under the FPA's Relief Package, food packets of supplies are being dispatched to the affected districts. The relief goods include food rations, tents, and medicines, which are being handed over to the respective district administrations.

Water levels in rivers

Meanwhile, the PDMA Punjab reported that the River Sulej continued to experience fluctuating water levels, with a low-level flood situation at Ganda Singhwala and Sulemani.

The authority said that water levels at Ganda Singhwala and 74,000 cubic metres of water were released from the dam at Ganda Singhwala and Sulemani, with authorities closely monitoring the situation due to ongoing fluctuations.

The Sulej River is expected to remain at low to medium flood levels in the coming days, with flows ranging between 75,000 and 120,000 cubic metres of water.

"Under the present rainfall conditions, the water levels in the river are likely to remain stable for the next few days," said PDMA.

PDMA has also forecast moderate rains in most districts of Punjab, with the seventh spell of monsoon rains expected to continue until August 22/23.

Jamil Naseer in Gilgit, Syed Irfan Raza in Islamabad and Imran Gabol in Lahore also contributed to this report

greater foreign exchange requirements. Interestingly, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) had been resisting allowing the cost of LNG diversion to domestic consumers, including those in the remote areas, which meant the LNG-based piped gas supply would still be cheaper 35-40pc.

The removal of the gas connection ban is being planned to meet the growing demand for gas in the country. The Ministry of Finance recently suggested that the government consider allowing the gas connection ban to be lifted in phases, starting with the introduction of circular debt. Already, the gas companies face around Rs200bn of annual revenue shortfalls on this account.

At present, the government has found itself in a paradoxical situation owing to economic slowdown, forced closure of gas to industrial captive power plants, unaffordable electricity rates, and insignificant imports of LNG by the private sector, for which the entire import arrangement was made in 2015-16, including sovereign commitments and more than \$7bn worth of infrastructural investments.

The mandatory 66pc LNG utilization for gas pipelines, for projects of over 5200mw, for which the long-term international contracts were signed in 2015-16 and 2020-21, has since been reduced to 33pc LNG utilisation. This has severely impacted the gas producers, compelling them to shift their focus to gas exploration and development activities. This means at least three monthly cargoes under the long-term contracts with Qatar have been surplus. This is on top of the diverse and monthly LNG that was contracted by Pakistan under a guaranteed private long-term contract. Last winter, the government had postponed five cargo

supplies from Qatar, which are due for rescheduling in FY2026 on top of about 150 annual deliveries. The domestic gas fields have been put on forced closure to create space for the imported LNG at more than twice the domestic producer price. The high cost of LNG has also caused weekly losses of billions of rupees to gas producers, compelling them to shift their focus to gas exploration and development activities. This means at least three monthly cargoes under the long-term contracts with Qatar have been surplus. This is on top of the diverse and monthly LNG that was contracted by Pakistan under a guaranteed private long-term contract. Last winter, the government had postponed five cargo

## Govt may allow new gas connection with fee hike

Continued from Page 1

Sources said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had recently expressed displeasure with delays in new connections.

The new connection fee would now be set at Rs40,000-50,000 and the connection could be billed at Rs10,000 per mmBtu, and the gasified regassified liquefied natural gas (LNG) price – currently at about Rs3,000 per mmBtu.

The final price, including general sales tax, would go up to Rs3,900-Rs4,100 per mmBtu. The higher LNG price for high-end domestic consumers with a monthly consumption of 300 cubic metres per month currently stands at Rs3,300 per mmBtu and goes up to Rs4,200 per mmBtu in winter months when monthly consumption reaches about 400 cubic metres of monthly consumption.

The cabinet was informed that a

comparative price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was worked out at around Rs1,300 per mmBtu, and it was being used by millions of poor and lower-middle-class consumers, including those in the remote areas, which meant the LNG-based piped gas supply would still be cheaper 35-40pc.

The removal of the gas connection ban is being planned to meet the growing demand for gas in the country. The Ministry of Finance recently suggested that the government consider allowing the gas connection ban to be lifted in phases, starting with the introduction of circular debt. Already, the gas companies face around Rs200bn of annual revenue shortfalls on this account.

At present, the government has

## No easy path

In recent months, the economy has offered some welcome signs of stability: inflation has slowed sharply, reserves have climbed above \$14bn, the current account is in surplus, and the fiscal deficit has been reined in. These improvements — achieved mainly through IMF-prescribed austerity policies — have prompted global rating agencies to lift Pakistan's sovereign rating, hinting at a restoration of market confidence in its economy. But the weaknesses are still obvious. Large-scale manufacturing shrank by 0.74pc last year, missing even the government's modest growth target of 3.5pc. This is not an isolated setback. Big industry has been stuck in a cycle of low growth or contraction for three years on the trot. That LSM, which contributes around 8pc to GDP, has failed to achieve sustainable momentum for three years running should set off alarm bells for policymakers as it is yet another reminder of the structural weaknesses weighing on the fragile national recovery. The year-on-year growth of 4.14pc in LSM output in June — the fourth straight month of positive numbers — offers hope.

Yet, the simultaneous month-on-month decline of 3.67pc underscores the brittleness of this recovery. This volatility indicates deeper, unresolved issues: higher than regional energy prices, weak investment on elevated borrowing costs, high tax burden on the corporate sector, policy unpredictability and 'informal' curbs on imports, including raw materials, due to a dollar liquidity crunch. The recent positive spurt in big industry output, therefore, should not be mistaken for a turnaround. The slower growth in LSM output mirrors the overall low growth of GDP, which expanded by just 2.7pc over two years after swinging between contraction and modest growth in the previous two fiscal years.

In its latest monetary policy statement, the State Bank rightly underlined the need for steadily executing structural reforms to consolidate recovery, deepen macroeconomic stability and achieve sustainable growth. The recent macro improvements — reflected in lower inflation thanks to a global drop in oil and commodity prices, reduced fiscal deficit achieved largely through curtailed development spending and austerity measures and a build-up of foreign exchange reserves supported by debt rollovers by friendly countries, modest multilateral inflows, rising remittances and strict import controls — are fragile at best. These improvements depend on external and temporary supports, such as debt rollbacks, limited multilateral financing, remittance etc., rather than durable fiscal and productivity gains leaving the economy only a small shock away from recession. That Pakistan's rating remains in speculative territory despite the upgrade from rating agencies is a reminder that this still view the risks as high. The question is: can policymakers use this breathing space to push through reforms that improve productivity, cut energy costs and attract investment? Without this, the economy will remain where it has been for years: underperforming, vulnerable and dangerously reliant on stopgap measures.

## OPINION

BY MALEEHAA LODHI

## War on truth

Even though Israel faces global isolation, US backing enables it to continue its genocidal war.

As Israel's military onslaught on Gaza intensifies, targeting and assassinating journalists is part of its genocidal campaign. Last week, four journalists were killed in cold blood, among them Anas al-Sharif, the most prominent face on the global television network who had courageously been reporting on the catastrophic war and famine conditions in Gaza. The journalists were killed in a direct attack on a makeshift medical tent outside Al-Shifa hospital, suggesting journalists is a war crime because Israel has acted with impunity in its long-shown contempt for international humanitarian law or norms.

The Israeli military has been carrying out deliberate assaults on journalists as it wars on Gaza began nearly two years ago. According to the UN, 242 journalists have been killed in that period, which is described as the highest number in any conflict. Israel's military is also responsible for the murder of Anas al-Sharif saying he was a "Hamas terrorist" — a patently false allegation that Al-Jazeera vehemently denied. Labelling journalists as militants is a disingenuous tactic Israel has always used. According to the Israeli-Palestinian news outlet "972 magazine" Israel's military has a special unit charged with "silencing journalists to smother Hamas members and target them".

The killing of journalists sparked global outrage. UN Secretary General António Guterres denounced it and the UN's Human Rights Office called it a grave breach of international law. Journalists' bodies and human rights organisations, including Reporters without Borders, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Committee for the Protection of Journalists all issued strong condemnations of these extrajudicial murders and called for accountability and international action to stop Israel. There have been worldwide protests over the killings.

Clearly, Israel's intent is to silence voices and prevent any emergence of the street-level and war-time commitment it is committing in Gaza as well as the mass starvation it has subjected Palestinians to. Suppressing the truth is a time-old practice of occupying forces, but it is always in vain. Despite Israel's ban on the international media from reporting from Gaza the world knows exactly what is happening there, thanks to brave local journalists who have risked their lives to report the atrocities. Pictures of starving children have been on television screens across the world and video footage of Israeli soldiers firing on desperate aid-seekers have gone viral on social media. This, in fact, is the most documented genocide in history.

Israel has stepped up both its military offensive and its war on truth ahead of its planned takeover of Gaza City leading to the full occupation of Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced his plan for the military capture of Gaza City earlier this month, with Israel's military given the go-ahead to launch an offensive to achieve this objective. This provoked worldwide condemnation with UN officials warning it would lead to "unimaginable suffering" and "another calamity", which would reverberate across the region. Arab states, Pakistan, the EU and many Western countries welcomed the impending move. In an emergency meeting of the Security Council on Aug 10, China, the UK, France, Russia and other members voted in favour of the resolution to call on Israel to reverse its decision. The only exception was the US, which backed Israel.

The shift in global especially Western opinion against Israel is palpable. It is being driven by the humanitarian catastrophe in war-torn Gaza and Israel's use of starvation as weapon of war. As a BBC correspondent put it, "the situation appears to be an unmet point for European countries to demand immediate impetus to drive their divergent diplomacy." Last week, the foreign ministers of 27 countries, including over 20 European nations, issued a joint statement demanding that Israel allow unhindered aid into Gaza.

More Western nations are moving towards recognition of a Palestinian state. Australia has followed the US and the UK, who announced plans to recognise Palestinian statehood, even though the UK has qualified by saying it will refrain from doing so until moves towards ending the war. France's decision is particularly significant as it is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. These announcements are aimed at raising diplomatic pressure on Israel but haven't been enough to

stop it from continuing the war. As of now, 147 of the UN's 193 member states recognise the state of Palestine.

The US, of course, remains opposed to recognition, saying that would reward Hamas. This echoes Tel Aviv's stance. The US position on a two-state solution, which it long supported but is now ambivalent on, isolates it from the rest of the international community and hinders the global consensus reflected in several Security Council resolutions. Mike Huckabee, the American ambassador to Israel said in June — and wasn't contradicted by the administration — that he did not think a sovereign Palestinian state is still a goal of US foreign policy. If this is the case, then it marks a significant shift in America's policy under President Donald Trump. Again, it would be in line with Israel's complete rejection of a Palestinian state and implicitly backing Netanyahu's vision of a 'Greater Israel', a notion that has recently been condemned by the OIC.

Despite Israel's growing global isolation, Netanyahu can ignore that as well as violate international law and continue its ethnic cleansing policy because he can count on unwavering US support. Trump's oft-repeated desire for a Gaza ceasefire rings hollow as he has done nothing to end the war. Washington has extended throughout the war, financial support to military, diplomatic and financial support to Israel. It has also funded the militarised aid-distribution system Israel set up, which has been rejected by the UN and is widely seen as 'death trap', as 4,400 Palestinians have been killed while seeking food at these sites.

All this with no real effort to restrain Netanyahu, who has given Israel licence to do whatever it wants in Gaza. The US has also not dissuaded Tel Aviv from its disastrous plan to take over Gaza City and eventually reoccupy the entire Strip. Washington and the self-proclaimed 'man of peace' are fully complicit in the catastrophic destruction in Gaza. And the world, for all its condemnations and moral outrage, has been unable to mount real pressure on the US to change course. ■

The writer is a former ambassador to the US, UK and UN.

## National drift

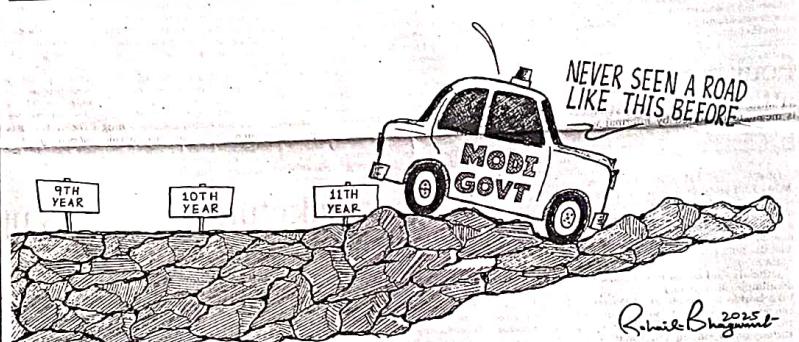
We have drifted quite a way from Mohammad Ali Jinnah's vision for Pakistan; there has been no shortage of commentary reminding us of this over the past many years. Yet just how far we have moved from the Quaid himself only became clear this Independence Day, when, in the enthusiasm to celebrate the occasion as a military victory parade, the government 'forgot' to picture Mr Jinnah and other national leaders on an official advertisement issued to commemorate the event. The law minister, who said he had been 'heart-affected' by the oversight, was himself unaware of the omission until the opposition raised the matter in the Senate on Friday. Had the omission of the nation's founding father from an Independence Day communication been so inconspicuous? The government, together with various state institutions, should introspect. Cities nationwide were plastered with banners and posters honouring and congratulating the present-day leadership on the occasion. The politicians could have done much more to highlight the contributions of the founders of the nation.

Independence Day was traditionally an occasion to celebrate the country and its freedom, and its spirit should remain dedicated to the people whose sacrifices made Pakistan possible. Our armed forces did indeed achieve commendable results in the recent conflict with the country's eastern neighbour. However, a celebration of these should have been left to the upcoming Defence Day, which would have offered a much more suitable occasion. One is also compelled to comment on some of the national awards and accolades that were conferred on Independence Day. Is it suitable that, year after year, exclusive honours are distributed freely among political loyalists rather than genuine achievers? According to the law minister, the prime minister's entire war cabinet received awards because they spent many sleepless nights to remain available for emergency decisions? Eight more allied lawmakers, also from the ruling parties' camp, received awards for travelling around the world as part of a post-holiday diplomatic offensive. It is a mercy that the prime minister turned down an award for himself. One wonders what need there was to celebrate politicians in this manner. This Independence Day might have been remembered as a moment to reaffirm Mr Jinnah's vision. Instead, it became an occasion for the powerful to honour themselves.

## Hockey's woes

The national sport continues to suffer. Years of mismanagement have plunged Pakistan hockey into a state of despair that has seen not only players go unpaid but the national team unable to fund its participation in international tournaments. Those tournaments do not surpass the FIH Pro League — the competition where the game's elite feature, a place where Pakistan has long aspire to reach as part of a post-holiday diplomatic offensive. It is a mercy that the prime minister turned down an award for himself. One wonders what need there was to celebrate politicians in this manner. This Independence Day might have been remembered as a moment to reaffirm Mr Jinnah's vision. Instead, it became an occasion for the powerful to honour themselves.

Pakistan did not qualify for the Pro League on the field. Instead, they were only extended the invitation by international hockey's governing body after New Zealand, which won the second-tier FIH Nations Cup after beating Pakistan in the final, withdrew. Thus the high cost of participation. The PSSB and the government are now mulling over the PHF's demand to ensure Pakistan's presence at the Pro League. It is a double-edged sword: on one end is the PHF's chequered history, offering a chance for the team to play consistently against top-ranked sides. From a purely sporting perspective, the government should support the team — the move could potentially serve Pakistan hockey — but it should make it binding on the PHF to improve its governance and show financial accountability. It should also ensure that the PHF immediately clears the dues of the players who participated in the Nations Cup.



BY UMAIR JAVED

## A higher ideal

SEVENTY-EIGHT years of statehood and the prospect of regional peace in the subcontinent remains as distant as ever. After a brief respite of possibility in the 1990s, the politics of polarization and non-state conflict has returned as the norm. Recent social and political transformations in both India and Pakistan are cause for further divergence between state officials and between common citizens.

In India, the rise of entrenched of aggressive right-wing nationalism has had several stark consequences for the region. Its 'self-assured' turn in foreign policy and posturing as a civilizational power has reduced the space for any concession on cross-border issues. This posture remains mostly for domestic convenience. But by linking the issue of national success to displays of hard power — surgical strikes, cross-border interventions, supporting non-state actors — the space for critical viewpoints on foreign policy issues is closed down further.

Of greater concern is widespread societal acceptance of regular bouts of political violence now received in the country. The BJP's success is based on selling the idea of economic growth (even in its skewed, top-biased nature) combined with cultural purification. The latter involves portraying Indian Muslims, first, as a threat and then left by an ever-expanding ruling force and, secondly, as better citizens due to their association with the creation of Pakistan.

This formula of otherisation may eventually reach its limits, but it has already proved successful in helping BJP and other Sangh-affiliates retain power in north India. There are few political campaigns where Pakistan is not mentioned in some explicit or implicit manner, often to distract from development-related inadequacies.

One consequence of this regressive politics for the region is that Pakistan appears as the external projection of domestic problems associated with Muslims. In the right-wing imagination, the country's very existence is a persistent reminder of their professed 'dharma' — that of Muslim rule, religious purity, and territorial integrity. In this light, the BJP has gone all in on commemorating Aug 14 as 'Partition Massacre Day', using the tragic events of seven decades ago not to build compassion or empathy,

but as political currency in the present.

What makes the situation more unfortunate is that large swaths of India's media ecosystem, including entities that nominally position themselves as liberals, continue to toe the line of foreign policy issues. Arbitration of jingoistic discourses, nominally independent journalists, further cultivates an environment in which polarization becomes the norm. With social media blockades shutting off people-to-people digital contact (in-person contact was done away with years ago), any societal push for normalization of ties seems entirely impossible.

The situation in Pakistan is non-conducive to regional normalization, further culminating an environment in which polarization becomes the norm. With social media blockades shutting off people-to-people digital contact (in-person contact was done away with years ago), any societal push for normalization of ties seems entirely impossible.

On the societal front, Pakistan fares somewhat better than India. Given the demographics, there is no active right-wing political group in its association with India, other than vigilantes slinging mud on each other. People here are generally curious about the other country, and cultural consumption of movies, TV and music remains fairly robust. People-to-people contact in Punjab, via religious tourism, remains an important source of mutual appreciation on this side.

On that front, Pakistani authorities deserve credit for not sacrificing this type of contact at the altar of state-level politics.

But all that amounts to naught in the present. The rise of right-wing forces in India has pulled the rug from under the feet of the pro-regionalists in Pakistan. The latter remained critical of their own side for military pursuits, while advocating for greater national integration and acceptance of a shared cultural heritage. Instead, now, the blanket refusal to engage from the other side, and the increasing volume of dehumanising online discourse make advocating for any form of peace and integration more difficult.

For the foreseeable future, it appears that the militarised logic of violence will dictate relations between the two countries. Advocacy that maintains a distanced risk is still a distinct advantage and potential benefit between societies — a mass of 1.5 billion people — will remain the norm.

But it is precisely these bleak prospects that one must remain wedded to an ideal higher than perpetual war. Both countries and their people are here to stay. Peace may not come likely any time soon, but it is certainly more preferable at a way of existence than one of complete and utter insecurity. ■

The writer teaches sociology at Lums.  
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## OPINION



BY HUMA YUSUF

## Plastic deadlock

AFTER days of negotiations, UN-brokered efforts for agreement on new plastics treaty collapsed on Friday. The failure of what was meant to be the most important environmental treaty since the Paris Agreement is sad and terrifying, adversely affecting all people and our planet. In the very least, this dismal outcome should spark fresh conversations about plastic pollution and pollution, including in Pakistan.

The world is now producing 460 million tons of plastic each year (of which only nine per cent is recycled), and the OECD predicts that plastic waste will triple by 2060. Calm-speak plastic production were rejected by oil-producing countries that hope to feed the global hunger for plastic (95pc of which are derived from fossil fuels) — a trap in a world otherwise turning towards renewables and EVs. Other controversial topics included implementation finance for developing countries and more restrictions on the use of chemicals in plastic production.

Pakistan's climate minister reportedly called for developed economies to stop treating countries like Pakistan as "junk yards" for plastic waste, demanding more green financing for emerging economies and proposing plastic credits.

Pakistan must remain a strong voice at international forums focused on environmental and climate change. On the same day the plastic treaty hit an impasse, more than 220 people were killed in flash flooding in KP and Gilgit-Baltistan. The latest climate change-related tragedy in extremely climate-vulnerable country. Let the link between a flash flood and the collapse of the plastics treaty remain unclear; fossil fuel consumption in the production of plastics exacerbates global climate change, and the resulting frequency and intensity of climate-related natural disasters.

But the climate change indignation masked the reality of the plastics skeleton in the national closet. Pakistan is among the top 10 largest producers of plastic waste, generating 2.6 million tons of plastic waste each year. As of 2020, we were using 55 billion single-use plastic bags each year. Pakistan also imports up to 80,000 tons of hazardous waste annually.

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Pakistan), 86pc of our plastic waste is mismanaged (that landfill leaching toxins into groundwater, burning plastic suffling urban air, beaches littered with plastic bottles, the Indus rushing macroplastics into the Arabian Sea). Less than 10pc is recycled.

There is also a social cost. Almost half of the waste dumped in the country's landfills is meant to be sorted by informal waste

pickers, who are poorly compensated, exposed to hazardous materials and who often include women and children. Their plight is also a social issue. The socio-economic challenges linked to widespread plastic pollution, including severe health implications (disrupted hormonal and reproductive systems, lung disease, cancer, etc) and disruptions to food systems.

Despite all this and our robust participation in the talks, Pakistan is unlikely to give up plastic use soon, especially considering the economy. In 2020, there were more than 11,000 plastic-producing and manufacturing companies in the country, contributing 1.5pc to GDP as well as 15pc of national tax revenues that year. More than 500,000 workers are directly employed in the plastics manufacturing sector. And with annual plastic demand growing by 15pc each year, one can assume these numbers are increasing.

Rather than posture in the hope of attracting green finance, Pakistan needs to seriously rethink its relationship with plastic.

On paper, we are headed in the right direction — we joined the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership in 2022 and launched a National Action Roadmap to Reduce Plastic Pollution this year, which commits to reducing mismanaged waste by over 75pc by 2040.

But in the case of plastic waste, intentions must be judged by actions. For example, repeated efforts to ban single-use plastic bags have faltered due to weak enforcement, a lack of public awareness on the harm of plastic pollution, the fragmentation of plastic policies and legal frameworks at federal and provincial levels, and the paucity of alternative, practical alternatives (admittedly more expensive but, say, in Islamabad, have met with greater success).

Pakistan should go back to basics, ready for a sustainable approach to plastics. To start, we need an approach to waste collection that is consistently applied across the country, including an expansion of collection points and facilities for sorting and treating waste. This means a plan for recycling, disposal, upcycling, zero waste. Our road to less plastic pollution is long, and sadly strewn with PET packaging, plastic bags and bottles. ■

The writer is a political and integrity risk analyst.

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*(The writer is professor of artificial intelligence at Birmingham City University.)*

IWT is a perfectly valid instrument



THIS is with reference to the article 'IWT: its failure and future' (Aug 13), which raised some interesting points that merit consideration, but it largely missed the wood for the trees when it comes to the basic intent of the treaty. To say that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) is a political agreement between the World Bank and India is wrong. It is a bilateral political agreement between India and Pakistan. The IWT was signed on April 1, 1968, after the expiry of the standstill water agreement. The Inter-Dominion Accord was signed in New Delhi between the two countries a month later after five tense weeks of a crucial closure, which had caused a loss of Rs20 million to Pakistan.

The IWT's history reached a crescendo in 1951 when Pakistan and India were on the brink of war because of the water issue. While Pakistan was invoking its share of water usage rights, India refused to share water. The threat of war led to a military engagement by David E. Lilienthal, an American effort by Pakistan to find a solution to the water issue, which subsequently brokered the IWT, which provided a legal basis to Pakistan's historical use and morality-based claims. Besides, it also provided the much-needed funds for building dams and link canals.

It is worth noting that the seven per cent share of the western rivers mentioned in the article for Pakistan does not have any non-consumptive and domestic use has not yet been utilised by India.

Since the geography in the case of Indus and Jhelum rivers prohibits large storage

reservoirs to India, Chenab is the only river that is threatened by the dam holding in almost all of the tributaries. What is worrisome is the possibility of water diversion from Chenab through gravity canals.

The crux of the water problem is the construction of projects by India that can give it the ability to alter the water flow of western rivers, allocated to Pakistan. The Indians have been pushing a series of technological advancements in silt control in reservoirs that should be permitted to them to prolong the usable life of their hydroelectric projects.

The Pakistani, fearful of Indian intentions, refuse to grant that capability which lies outside the scope of IWT. The water issue, therefore, is not about the viability of the treaty, which is a perfect legal instrument.

Further, saying that the treaty has resulted in an ecocide is a gross exaggeration, as is the issue of sea water intrusion. The Indian stance on the issue is rooted in hubris and bias, driven by Hinduva politics of exclusivism.

India has been moving goalsposts, adding one spurious reason after another, like demographic changes, renewable energy commitments, climate change, and finally, terrorism. None of the above reasons can be called unforeseen factors that could not have been foreseen at the time of IWT signing. And, hence, they remain legally invalid.

Pakistan should be ready to listen to Indian concerns, provided those are discussed under IWT, and not beyond it. Pakistan should employ all legal and diplomatic options to bring India back into the IWT fold.

While the kinetic option remains on the table, Pakistan has the good sense to know that it is an option of last resort.

Brig (ret'd) Dr Raashid Wali Janjua

Islamabad

*(The writer is a regional opportunity*

*in a rare but strategic move, Russia has officially recognised the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. After three years of Taliban rule, this recognition makes Russia the first state to accept the group's government, defying global condemnation.)*

*Most countries, for various reasons, have avoided a formal engagement with the Taliban. However, Russia, owing to its strategic global standing, does not see such global condemnation as politically or economically dangerous.*

*A string of crises has driven the Kremlin to enter into official diplomatic ties with Afghanistan. For most among these is the proxy war with Ukraine, which has drained Russia's economy and invited harsh sanctions.*

*In this context, Afghanistan emerges as a regional ally sharing a similar posture against the United States. This bilateral cooperation seemingly promises strategic*

*redevelopment as the Margalla Wildlife Centre. The initiative makes teh zoo a promising example of such a transformation.*



BY RAJA MUHAMMAD ATIF AZAD

## The age of AI

*STAR Trek* is an iconic sci-fi series from the 1980s. Set in the 24th century, it shows cases astounding technological leaps. One unmissable character is a humanoid robot called Data, who is seemingly super capable, he's unable to experience emotions, any attempt returns comical failures.

Meanwhile, humans have spread to other planets. In one episode, one such planet is visited by a powerful character Ardra. A contract is said to entitle her to ownership of both the planet and its inhabitants. The protagonist, Captain Picard, demands arbitration. Confident of success, Ardra agrees but only if Data is the arbiter. Her reason: the artificial intelligence (AI) within him "is incapable of deceit and bias". Hold that thought.

We may not yet have a Data, but we are unmistakably in the age of AI. It can dominate our lives, our products and drive cars. But imagine having your chest ripped open by a robot which, although well-calibrated and immune to fatigue, overestimates your pain threshold because of your skin colour. Now switch to a courtroom, where an AI judge — invited by the honourable Supreme Court — hands down a life sentence without parole to a defendant whose commercial licence prohibits disclosure. The scene shifts again: you are in a self-driving car, thoroughly tested in the US but unable to recognise a donkey cart in Pakistan, and it accelerates instead of stopping.

These are no improbable hypotheticals. They learn from human experiences fed to it during training, make decisions based on learned decisions that can be inconsistent, life-changing, even fatal. For example, in 2016, a passport application of an Asian man in New Zealand was rejected because AI declared the eyes in his photo were closed. They weren't. They were only smaller. The applicant had "no hard feelings" against the robot. Glenn Rodriguez, wanted to be released from jail after serving a 26-year record.

However, the proprietary AI system COMPAS denied his parole application; and the board had no way to later research showed that COMPAS deemed him high-risk simply because he was black. In 2016 again, a self-driving Tesla crashed into a truck, killing its white male driver. The point is not to scare anyone; it is to raise awareness. AI holds immense potential, but its ability to mimic or even surpass human accuracy across a range of situations can inflate trust in its safety and reliability, ignoring the fact that the learning process behind this impressive performance is not faithful to human cognition and neurobiology.

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## Two youths, girl killed as dumper truck hits motorbike

By Our Correspondent

**THATTA:** Two youths and a young girl were killed when the motorcycle they were riding was hit by a dumper truck near the city's bypass on Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Irshad, son of Munna Shah, Karu, son of Ajaz Shah, and Shehnaz, daughter of Ameen Shah. They were residents of Qasim Shah village, located near Bulki Shah Kamion town.

Police arrested the truck driver and impounded his vehicle.

Rescue 1122 and Edhi volunteers transported the bodies to the Maki Civil Hospital for a postmortem examination. They were later handed over to the heirs.

It was the second such accident within a few days on the same spot. In the earlier one, another dumper truck had knocked down three young men riding a motorcycle. Two of the victims were killed and a third one was seriously injured.

The death of three persons, said to be close relatives, sparked a protest by locals, who blocked the Thatta-Sujawal road for a couple of hours and raised slogans against the administration for allowing heavy vehicles' entry into populated areas. Led by Pahowan Mohammad Bakhs Khoso, they demanded immediate measures for people's safety on roads and action against rash driving.

They also demanded restrictions on the entry and movement of heavy vehicles in the city.

## Man attacks ex-wife with acid

By Our Correspondent

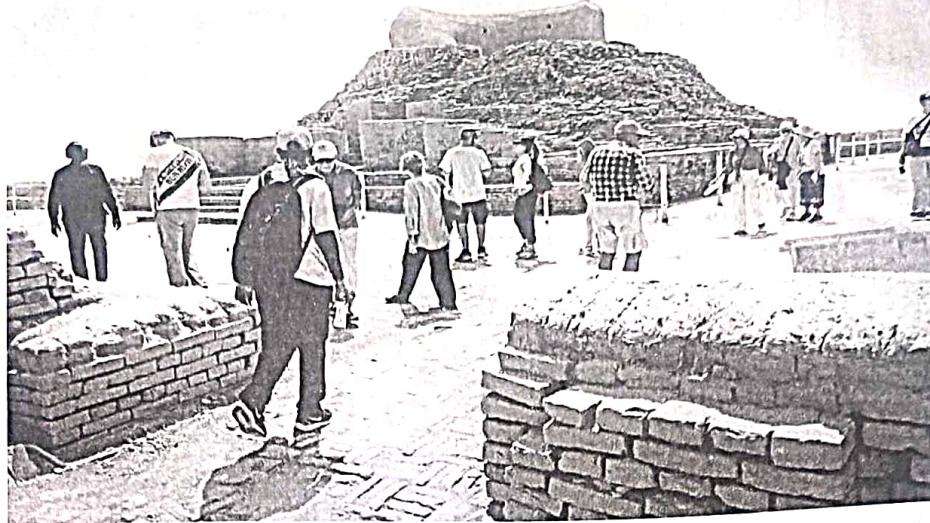
**NAWABSHAH:** A man attacked his ex-wife with acid in Shahi Bazaar of Kandiaro town in Naushahro Feroze district on Sunday.

A video that went viral on the social media showed Majid throwing acid on his ex-wife, Rukhsana Kalhoro, and fleeing the spot. She was buying something from a medical store when attacked.

She was rushed to the Kandiaro Taluka Hospital and provided treatment. The Kandiaro police had issued a letter to her for the treatment upon receiving the information about the attack.

Majid had divorced Rukhsana some three years ago due to their strained relationship.

A hunt for Majid was under way and more details of the incident were being gathered, the police said.



A DELEGATION OF ITALIAN RESEARCHERS AND TOURISTS VISITS DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE OF MOHENJO DARO ON SUNDAY.—PPI

## JUI-F, nationalists hold rallies against corporate farming, lawlessness in Sindh

By Our Correspondent

**SUKKUR:** The Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Qaumi Awami Tehreek (QAT) and Awami Tehreek (AT) held separate rallies in different parts of Sindh on Sunday against corporate farming and Sindh government's failure to fulfil its responsibilities.

The JUI-F rally started from Jamia Masjid, Thull, and ended at Amroti Chowk, where the participants held a sit-in.

Addressing the rally, JUI-F Jacobabad District Emir Dr A.G. Ansari said that Sindh's fertile lands and water are being doled out to local and foreign firms in name of corporate farming. "This is sheer injustice to the province and its people," he said, and stressed that these lands should instead, be allotted to landless peasant families. This downtrodden segment must also be provided with water, electricity, fertilizer and other farm implements so as to ensure their proper implementation.

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They regretted that the province's farming community was faced with a severe shortage of water despite availability of the commodity in the system.

Hundreds of thousands of acres were

turning barren, causing a serious concern to farmers, they said, and demanded

immediate stops to resolve this major issue.

The leaders also highlighted the rampant crime in Kandikot-Kashmore and other districts of upper Sindh and demanded strict punishment of criminal agents and failed to control dacoit gangs,

which were continuing to kidnap people, for ransom, extorting money from ordinary citizens and honey trapping youth after inviting them to the areas under their control. Such crimes are now becoming a daily reality, they deplored.

They demanded a decisive action against these gangs to liberate the riverine areas from outlaws.

AT protest in K.N. Shah

The Awami Tehreek (AT) organised a rally at Khanpur Nathon Shah town of Dadu district on Sunday to condemn corporate farming, drawing of six new canals from the Indus River and "grabbing" of Sindh's lands and other resources" under different plans, says a press release.

The rally started from the town's community centre and culminated outside the local press club, where the participants held a sit-in, it said.

The rally was led by Hussain General Secretary Advocate Sajid Hussain Mahesar along with its leader President Advocate Nejeb Mahesar, Atif Mallah, Hadi Dino Khuhro, Bakht

Burriro, Advocate Shabbir Khoso, Advocate Dad Magri, Rashid Bhurgari and others.

They alleged that Sindh's lands were being "auctioned off" under the corporate farming plan while communities were being hatched to separate Karachi from Sindh. They cited toward the recent remarks by an FCCCI leader during his press conference in Karachi to support a proposal of Sindh to create new provinces. "It's a ploy to spread unrest in Sindh," they said, adding that people of Sindh would not tolerate such attacks on the historical city of Karachi.

The leaders also alleged that Sindh government is failing to ensure measures to prevent destruction during monsoon rains and flooding. They alleged that the funds allocated for the repairing and strengthening of Indus embankments and protective bunds had been embezzled by irrigation officials.

They demanded action against corrupt officials.

They noted that while Sindh was facing threat of flood, an artificial shortage of water was being created to destroy its crops.

They also alleged that the PPP government had blocked the revision of Sindh's irrigation schedule in the Indus water.

The party demanded emergency flood protection measures including strengthening of SM Bund, Prio Bund, Kari Mori Bund and MNV drain dykes.

## Bhitai's poetry on women's status eulogised

By Our Correspondent

**LARKANA:** Speakers at a programme on Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai held at Arts Council of Pakistan, Larkana, on Saturday night, said Bhitai had elevated status of women through his poetry by glorifying the characters of Sassi, Maru and others.

Prof Samina Abro, an established literary figure and principal of Government Degree Serafat Bhutto Girls Degree College, who presided over the event titled "Latif Night", said that Bhitai was Sindh's spiritual guide as he had "consistently showed us a path filled with love and patience".

She said that through his poetry, Bhitai had elevated the status of women in every sur (chapter of astrology), while also highlighting men in the same spirit of love and

during recitation, people neglected proper diacritics, which changed complete meaning of a verse. "There is great need to do more research on Bhitai's poetry, art, and thought," they said.

Bhitai's poetry was like ocean's rolling waves, his depiction of pain and hardships was a core inspiration in his work, he was a poet of subtlety and observation and his poetry was a journey of arduous struggle, which cannot be considered simple, they said.

Most recently, they said, in all 24 sur of Risalo, women had been recognised and celebrated and occupied central position.

"When one reads the character of Bhitai, one discovers the tangible globe of women and their hardships a woman can dream of," they remarked.

They noted that it must be remembered that the first work on Bhitai's poetry was done by German scholar Ernest Trump, and his contribution

should always be acknowledged. "The Bhitai's art and thought we find numerous idioms, terms, similes, metaphors and profound words in his poetry, which need to be studied and understood perfectly, as Bhitai's poetry is full of such artistic ups and downs, which require much research," it said.

They said that a great deal of work had already been done on Bhitai. He chose to write in Sindhi by rebelling against the dominant trends of his time and rejected the prevailing Persian language, which did not suit his linguistic needs, he was a poet of women's diversity and greatness, they said.

Chairman of the Fine Arts Department, Muhammad Ayub Gadil, Hamza Ali Soho, Jam Jamali, Ghulam Raza Memori and Mehbood Chandio also shared their views.

## LPG tanker catches fire near Jamshoro

By Our Correspondent

**DADU:** An LPG-loaded tanker parked alongside the M-9 Motorway near Jamshoro caught fire on Sunday, reportedly due to heat and gas leakage.

Eyewitnesses said they saw thick smoke rising from the trailer before it was engulfed in flames. Fire brigade teams rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze before it could lead to a major disaster, they said.

Sources said that the tanker had been parked there for the past two days as it had been stopped by the Excise Department, which had directed CNG and LPG tankers to halt their operations due to the intense heat. However, shortly after the fire incident, Excise personnel reportedly fled the scene.

The tanker crew held a protest against the Excise authorities, alleging negligence. "We have been here for two days without any safety measures. The extreme heat caused the tank to leak and eventually catch fire," said the trailer's driver, who demanded accountability from the department concerned.

No casualties were reported, and the fire was brought under control in time to prevent an explosion.

## LITERARY NOTES

### Unified style guide for academic writing and Najmul Islam

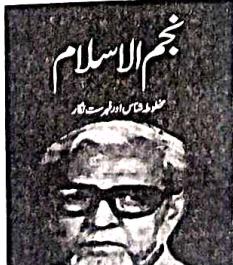
By Raul Parekh

In this age of technology when AI-generated research papers are being retracted in the West and our universities have been turned into paper mills where fake theses are approved to award genuine degrees, it seems out of place to talk about research methodologies or a standardised and unified manual of style for academic writing.

Even till the late 1980s, one of the issues that scholars of Urdu had to face was that there was no unified manual of style or standardised style sheet, which is known as style guide, while most of them in the method of citations in a research paper or dissertation. To prove one's originality and honesty, it is considered of utmost importance to properly acknowledge the books, articles and other sources of information cited in one's research work. Such pieces of information may include names of authors and titles of publications referring to them, with their bibliographic details, for instance, publisher and year of publication and page number etc. — in addition to other aspects, such as, formatting, font size, number of lines

on each page, paragraphing, punctuation and use of formal language. The purpose is to present the research work in such a transparent manner that readers would be able to verify the information, if they so desire. This also ensures consistency and uniformity. In the Western world, style guides, such as Chicago Manual of Style, have been in place for over a century now, ensuring a standardised method.

Though literary research had come a long way and over a century had elapsed since academic research began in Urdu, the research methodology lacked consistency. In past, research publications and research scholars usually decided on their own about the methods to be used for citing, formatting, referencing and bibliographic listing in their research writings. It was Dr Najmul Islam who in 1987 launched Tchheeq, an Urdu research journal from Sindh University's Urdu department, which was to decide on some major aspects of Urdu's research methodology, to cite academic writings. Though even today we do not have a standard manual of style for Urdu's academic writing, most of Urdu's research journals follow Turabian Citation Style, which is a simplified ver-



Portrait of Prof. Najmul Islam.

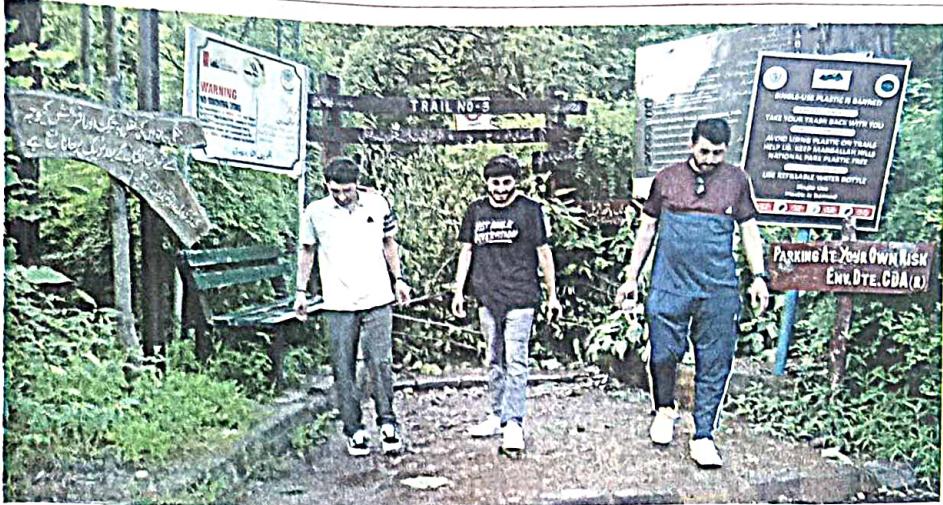
research methodologies. Najmul Islam and his writings played a key role in creating that awareness. Aside from stressing the need for a unified and standardised style guide for researchers, Najmul Islam practically showed how to use his own research papers, and the writings that he edited for and published in Jihz — how to record the citations in the main text of a paper, give details in the footnotes or endnotes and compile a bibliography of the works cited. In fact, Tchheeq was the first printed research journal in Urdu with a prototype of an Urdu research journal. Keeping in view the example set by Najmul Islam, many of our universities launched or re-launched or revamped their Urdu research journals.

Najmul Islam has largely been ignored by Urdu critics and researchers. Fortunately, at Islamabad's Allama Iqbal Open University, a PhD dissertation was penned on Najmul Islam under the supervision of Dr Abdul Aziz Sahrir. Written by Muhammad Youssuf Chohan, the dissertation has been published in book form by Makktoora Shamsa Aur Fehrist Nigar, the book comprehensively discusses what

research is, what the research methodologies used in Urdu are and how Najmul Islam played a vital role in reviving an interest in the principles and techniques of research in Urdu. As an in-depth study of existing research, it has been able to extract some theoretical principles and explain how Najmul Islam practically applied them in his research.

According to Chohan, Prof Dr Najmul Islam was a researcher, critic, translator, academician and bibliographer. Born in 1913, he had begun contributing to literary magazines while still a student. At 19, he took active part in editing of Meroot, a literary annual published from Meerut. In 1956, he migrated to Pakistan and settled in Sukkur. He taught at different colleges in Sindh and finally joined Sindh University's Urdu department in 1970. He had done his PhD in 1969 under the supervision of Dr Ghulam Ali Khan and is known for his work on the influence of religious movements on Urdu literature. The thesis may be ranked among a few good research works carried out at our universities in recent years.

Prof. Najmul Islam died on Feb 13, 2001, in Hyderabad, Sindh.



HIKERS return after finding Trail 3 in Islamabad closed as a precaution in light of a flood warning in Margalla Hills by Meteorological Department. — Photo by Mohammed Asim

## Punjab govt green signals launch of three road infrastructure projects in Pindi

Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) approved projects worth Rs14.7bn at its 17th meeting held in Lahore, says official

By Aamir Yasin

**RAWALPINDI:** The Punjab government has given the green signal to start work on three projects at Kuchery Chowk worth Rs14.73 billion to ease traffic in the city.

A senior official of Punjab Highway department told Dawn that Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) approved the projects at its 17th meeting held in Lahore on August 12.

Under these projects, two flyovers and an underpass will be constructed at Kuchery Chowk worth Rs6.694 billion, an underpass at Ifthikhar Janjua Road

worth Rs2.798 billion and a flyover and one underpass at Jinnah Park Chowk at a cost of Rs2.245 billion.

He said that the government had issued the document for PC-1 to start the projects. For PC-1, the department conducted a survey of the area and found out that 250,000 vehicles passed through the intersection every day.

"Basically, this project is part of the signal-free corridor from Koral Chowk to the Motorway Chowk," he said, adding that the government had decided to execute this project in phases.

According to the plan, the corridor will be constructed from Koral Chowk to the Motorway Chowk, and after Kuchery Chowk intersection, a flyover will be constructed at Ammar Chowk followed by three underpasses on Peshawar Road at Race Course Park Chowk, Army Graveyard Chowk and Charing Cross.

He said after completion of the work, travellers from Islamabad and Rawalpindi will be able to reach Islamabad International Airport via

the motorway, adding a new bus service would also be launched for the airport.

He said that a survey would also be conducted for a flyover at Ammar Chowk and after completion of both the projects, traffic flow on Kuchery Chowk, Rashid Minhas Road, Jhelum Road, the Mall, Peshawar Road, old Airport Road and G.T. Road would be eased.

Another flyover would be constructed at Ammar Chowk after clearance from the garrison authorities.

The flyover was initially added to the Ammar Chowk remodelling project, but the idea was later dropped. Now the government has decided to remake the project.

He said as the green signal was given by the government, work would be started after the monsoon season.

He said Peshawar Road would also be made a signal-free corridor, adding the government was planning to build more underpasses on The Mall after these

Rana Qamar Ali, Executive Engineer of the Highway Department, confirmed to Dawn that the projects worth Rs14 billion had been approved for Rawalpindi and his department would start work after the monsoon season.

He said eventually these three projects will be interconnected aimed to ease traffic. He said after construction of the flyovers and underpasses, there will be no traffic congestions.

About land acquisition, he said they would try their best to make such a design which would not leave land around the flyovers and underpasses and avoid cutting of utility services. However, he said more than 20 kanals would be required for these projects.

Fatima Jinnah Women University, Jinnah Park, the taxation office complex, commissioner office, police stations and some private offices will be acquired for the project. He said the district administration will start the process to acquire the land from these government departments. He said mostly state land will be used for the projects.

The rescue operation was suspended after sunset and is scheduled to resume on Monday morning.

In the second incident, the emergency service staff rescued two herdsmen who were trapped during sudden rise in the rainwater at Adiala road on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Rescue 1122 Rawalpindi was placed on alert in view of rains in Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Sunday as the leaves of the staff have been cancelled.

The District Emergency Officer

Rawalpindi has imposed Code Red across the district, indicating a high-level alert for potential emergencies. In this context, Code Red typically signifies a serious situation requiring immediate attention and action.

The rescue services took proactive measures by deploying personnel around Nullah Leh and low-lying areas which prone to flooding during the rains.

By keeping rescue teams on duty continuously, they aimed to respond quickly to emergencies and minimise potential risks.

He said that people should exercise extreme caution during the monsoon season, while parents have been advised not to let their children go near drains and electric poles during the rain.

During rain, drive at a slower speed and avoid unnecessary driving, said the spokesman adding that people should move to safer places before urban flooding.

He further advised not to go under weak, and dilapidated roofs during rain and do not visit tourist destinations due to the risk of heavy rains and clouds bursts.

The emergency service said in its advisory to avoid crossing rivers and in case of any emergency, immediately report to the rescue helpline 1122, he said.

## Heavy rain inundates low-lying areas in Rawalpindi

By Our Staff Reporter

**RAWALPINDI:** Heavy rains and thunderstorm woke up the residents of the twin cities on Sunday morning, raising the water level in Leh Nullah from 10 to 14 feet and inundating low-lying areas in Rawalpindi.

The rain started before Fajr prayers and continued till 9am with occasional gaps and the sun overpowered heavy clouds in the afternoon. The rain brought down the mercury to 29 Celsius. Many downtown areas were flooded with rainwater.

The district administration, civil defence department and Rescue 1122 remained on high alert

throughout the day to deal with any emergency.

Rainwater accumulated in the low-lying areas where residents remained busy till the afternoon draining out water.

"The Leh Nullah rose to 14 feet at Kattarian and 10 feet at Gawalmandi but the situation remained under control due to dredging of the nullah before the monsoon," said Wasa Managing Director Saleem Ashraf while talking to Dawn.

"Wasa officials were on alert to deal with any emergency. The heavy rain lashed in the catchment area of Leh Nullah and it raised the water level. However, the water receded two hours after the rain stopped," he said.



WATER level increases in Korang Nullah after heavy rains in Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Sunday. — Online

## Sherry blames institutional failure, climate change for destruction in KP

**ISLAMABAD:** Vice-President of the Pakistan People's Party Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said the destruction caused by 200mm monsoon was a lethal combination of global climate change and local institutional failure.

According to a statement issued here, she said that the floods had hit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) the worst, causing deadly landslides that had erased entire villages, left thousands homeless, and forced widespread displacement.

Rescue operations had been severely hindered due to helicopter crashes, and districts like Swat, Chitral, Dir, Kohistan, and Shangla

bans, and overnight changes to land use laws had caused unchecked deforestation and construction along rivers and green zones.

Despite receiving \$188 million from the World Bank for early warning systems, Pakistan still lagged behind regional peers like Bangladesh and Nepal, with funds diverted during emergencies.

Regulation, plastic waste, illegal immigration, and blocked waterways had further amplified the destruction.

"Pakistan is losing 27,000 hectares of forest each year, and glacial melt, erratic rainfall, and recurring floods

now directly threaten our economy and food security," she warned.

Sherry Rehman stressed that national and international climate plans remained largely on paper, and climate management only reacted during crises.

She called for immediate reforms including afforestation, green infrastructure, renewable energy adoption, and effective environmental regulation.

"To survive the age of climate collapse, Pakistan must restore credibility, unlock climate finance, and put policy into action - before it's too late," she concluded. — Staff Reporter

TAXILA: A 25-year-old man drowned in a water channel in Kala village in the limits of Fatehjang police station on Sunday, rescue and hospital sources said.

According to sources, the victim, identified as Taimoor Ali, went to the water channel where he went to deep waters and drowned. Upon receiving information, Rescue 1122 teams launched a joint operation with the local villagers.

After hectic efforts, the body was recovered and shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital. Police investigating

the case.

Wife killer arrested

Police on Sunday arrested a man accused of killing his wife for honor in Pindigheb on August 10.

According to the FIR lodged on the complaint of the victim's brother, Atta Khan, his sister was married to Mohammad Arif, son of Yaqoob Khan, who was she had two sons and a daughter. The complainant stated that Arif used to respect his sister's character, which frequently led to quarrels. — Correspondent

## Zardari launches plantation drive, urges citizens to fight climate change

By Bakhtawar Mian

**ISLAMABAD:** President Asif Ali Zardari has said that over 41 million saplings will be planted during the monsoon season and urged all citizens to contribute to this noble cause to offset the adverse effects of climate change.

"From cities to villages, and from schools to government institutions, this campaign will reshape our landscape, strengthen resilience against climate disasters and kindle hope for a greener tomorrow," President Zardari said on the occasion of the Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign being launched on Monday (today).

Mr Zardari said August 18 marked the launch of a nationwide tree plantation drive at a time when Pakistan faces the harsh realities of climate change.

The well-being and progress of any nation, he said, are rooted in the preservation of life, environment and natural environment. Deforestation, desertification, and frequent floods are challenges affecting millions of lives, he added.

"With insufficient forest cover leaving our land vulnerable to disasters that endanger our economy, agriculture, and well-being, this campaign is not symbolic; it is an urgent step to safeguard Pakistan's future," he stressed.

Explaining the importance of trees, he said they are lifelines of the environment and one of the strongest defences against climate change. "We must clean the air we breathe, enrich the soil that feeds our precious water resources and provide shelter to countless species of life. Trees lower extreme temperatures, absorb rainwater, and

reduce floods and landslides. Every tree planted is a shield against disaster and a source of life for generations," he noted.

He added that the success of the campaign depends on collective responsibility.

"Without mass lead as ambassadors of change, the media should inspire households, and farmers can protect both crops and the environment through plantation. Civil society, community leaders, and educational scholars must also motivate and encourage people to plant trees as a national duty."

He also referred to recent floods, saying that in this critical time, when the country has already faced drought destruction to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other parts of the country through floods and cloudbursts, decisive action is needed to plant more trees.

He urged citizens to strengthen

the Green Pakistan Programme, a national initiative to expand forest cover, rehydrate degraded lands, and promote ecological balance and promote nature-based solutions.

"It is not simply about planting trees. It is about creating healthier communities, protecting livelihoods, and ensuring a climate-resilient future for generations to come," he said.

Meanwhile, Sardar Ayaz Sadar underscored the urgent need to adopt tree plantation as a national obligation to combat the growing threat of environmental pollution and climate change.

He noted that unchecked deforestation has led to increasingly severe consequences, including torrential rains, soil erosion, floods, air pollution, and unpredictable weather patterns.

These challenges, he stressed,

demand immediate and coordinated action to ensure a cleaner, safer environment for future generations.

Highlighting the multifaceted benefits of trees, Mr Zardari said they not only purify oxygen but also serve as a cornerstone of ecological stability. They play a critical role in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and preserving the natural beauty of the planet.

He urged that tree plantation be transformed into a mass movement, and every citizen needs to contribute actively to combat climate change.

A green and thriving Pakistan requires joint efforts from both the government and the people. We must embark on large-scale plantation drives across schools, colleges, villages, and urban areas to move toward environmental self-sufficiency."

Mr Sadiq further emphasised that planting saplings is only the first step; ensuring their survival through regular care and monitoring is equally important.

"Sustainable development and a healthy society are achievable only when individuals acknowledge tree plantation as a shared responsibility and actively participate in preparing the environment," he noted.

Similarly, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah said tree plantation is not merely an environmental necessity but also an integral part of religious teachings and cultural values.

He stressed the importance of raising public awareness about greening both urban and rural landscapes, saying that environmental consciousness is essential in today's world.

## Minor girl swept away in drain

By Our Staff Reporter

**RAWALPINDI:** A minor girl was swept away by a nullah while trying to retrieve her shoes from the water in Khalid Colony on Chakri Road.

Meanwhile, Rescue 1122 staff successfully rescued two herdsmen who were stranded in rising rainwater on Adiala Road on Sunday.

Emergency services said soon after the incident six swimmers and two divers were sent to the scene who started efforts to recover the girl.

The rescue operation was suspended after sunset and is scheduled to resume on Monday morning.

The nullah where the minor girl was swept away is approximately 5-10 feet deep, with water flowing at a speed of 8-10 kilometers per hour.

In the second incident, the emergency service staff rescued two herdsmen who were trapped during sudden rise in the rainwater at Adiala road on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Rescue 1122 Rawalpindi was placed on alert in view of rains in Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Sunday as the leaves of the staff have been cancelled.

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During rain, drive at a slower speed and avoid unnecessary driving, said the spokesman adding that people should move to safer places before urban flooding.

He further advised not to go under weak, and dilapidated roofs during rain and do not visit tourist destinations due to the risk of heavy rains and clouds bursts.

The emergency service said in its advisory to avoid crossing rivers and in case of any emergency, immediately report to the rescue helpline 1122, he said.



## A tragedy that shaped the course of Bangladesh history

Editorial — The Daily Star

THE ASSASSINATION OF Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with most of his family members, on August 15, 1975, was a dark chapter in Bangladesh's history. The cold-blooded way in which they were murdered—including his minor son, wife, and daughters-in-law, as well as individuals with no familial ties—was shocking and reprehensible. It was also destabilising for a nation still grappling with the trauma and devastation of the nine-month bloody war.

Carried out by a group of army officers, Bangabandhu's assassination was followed by another dastardly act on November 3 of the same year: the brutal killing of four senior leaders in jail—Sayed Nazrul Islam, M. Muzaffar Ali, and AHM Qamaruzzaman.

Some researchers allege a foreign conspiracy behind both the assassinations of August and November, while others attribute them primarily to internal reasons and power struggles. But these were the very men who had formed a provisional government in April 1971 when Bangabandhu was imprisoned in Pakistan, trained ordinary citizens to become freedom fighters, and led the fight for 'liberation' against a well-equipped occupying army. Their assassinations steered the country further away from the ideals it was founded on and towards an authoritarian rule. The government that followed shunned democratic principles and committed these heinous crimes. The precedent set on August 15 made future political assassinations more conceivable, including repeated attempts on President Ziaur Rahman, one of which ultimately led to his death in a 1981 military coup, again creating a national crisis.

History must assess Sheik Mujib Rahman in two distinct phases: as a leader of the freedom struggle, and as the prime minister after 1971, whose controversial actions, including the formation of the one-party BAKSAL system, failure to curb corruption, and perceived inability to respond to the 1974 famine, led to public disillusionment. But it is unfortunate that such a leader, who had once been a symbol of hope and progress, was met with contempt and narrow-judgmentalism, largely due to his daughter Sheikh Hasina's obsessive dedication of him and monopolising the narrative of the 'Liberation War'.

She politicised and weaponised both the war and Bangabandhu's legacy in order to extend her rule and clamp down on those who she deemed as opponents, whether political rivals or ordinary citizens showing signs of dissent. The student-led people's uprising of July-August 2024 was a consequence of her 15 years of abuse of power, culminating in the killing of around 1,400 citizens. As a result, anything associated with Mujib is now anathema to most of those who suffered under his rule. But Sheik Mujib Rahman's foundational role in our struggle for independence is indisputable and cannot be ignored, no matter how politicised his memory has become. Attempts to rewrite history only repeat the mistakes of past regimes.

August 15 must be remembered as a national tragedy that derailed the democratic trajectory of a newly independent nation. Commemorating it is not about political allegiance. It is not about overlooking Bangabandhu's mistakes and failures. It is about acknowledging a truth that shaped the course of our history. Let history judge him in all his contradictions, and not through the narrow lens of politics as we often tend to do.—ANNA

# West's strategic mythmaking revives 20th century's darkest moments

In absence of a genuinely bipolar world, Western fabrication of Cold War binaries is a revival of racial hierarchies in the form of the 'barbaric East' versus 'civilised West'

By Konstantinos Grivas

WORLD WAR II was not merely a contest of geopolitics on an unprecedented scale; it constituted a civilisational confrontation, cleaving between incompatible visions of humanity. The victors articulated a commitment to principles of liberty, human dignity and equality, in opposition to the virulently racist and eliminationist ideologies of fascism and militarism that had sought to re-order the global hierarchy on racial lines.

The Cold War that followed, though driven by strategic rivalry, was also deeply moralised. A worldview was epitomised to contrast liberal democracy with so-called totalitarianism. Yet, even during this intense ideological confrontation, Western discourse generally avoided essentialising the Russian or broader Slavic identity.

Today, the geopolitical climate following the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis in 2022 has witnessed the re-emergence—albeit in veiled and modernised forms—of racialised discourses and ordinary citizens showing signs of dissent. The student-led people's uprising of July-August 2024 was a consequence of regional conflicts and segments of Western strategic thought have come to portray not merely the Russian state, but the Russian people and culture, as a 'barbaric' and 'antihuman' civilisation in itself. This essentialism justifies the grounds of opposition to regional conflicts and in defence of international law, segments of Western strategic thought have come to portray not merely the Russian state, but the Russian people and culture, as a 'barbaric' and 'antihuman' civilisation in itself. This essentialism marks a departure from the strategic rationalism of the original Cold War and introduces troubling echoes of past racial hierarchies.

However, the deeper concern lies not in Russia per se, but in the reactivation of exclusionary and civilisational frameworks within the Western strategic imagination. Narratives that elevate the threat of 'barbaric East' over 'civilised West' are not only analytically flawed but geopolitically irrelevant. These tropes are increasingly projected onto other non-Western powers, especially China, whose growing

role in international affairs has revealed the inadequacy of the binary logic of Cold War revisionism. China's position as a globally integrated, economically powerful and diplomatically active state requires us for more complex analysis in shaping the contours of the emerging world order. Crucially, China has not adopted a revisionist posture grounded in racialised exceptionalism. Rather, its foreign policy is anchored in discourses such as the Belt and Silk Initiative and the community with a shared future for humanity—it offers a vision of multipolar coexistence. It resists Manichean binaries and advocates a civilisational pluralism that stands in contrast to the West's increasingly monocultural and homogenising strategic language.

This alternative provides a conceptual framework through which the international system might resist a return to the ideologically charged racial remembrance of 20th century's darkest moments. Indeed, China's advocacy for non-alignment, noninterference and mutual development aligns more closely with the post-colonial aspirations of other Global South countries. The current Western strategic climate has become increasingly prone to mythmaking and historical distortion. One of the most frequently invoked parallels is that of the 1938 Munich Agreement, employed to warn the risk of maintaining a mild policy and justifying a hawkish stance against contemporary adversaries. Yet this analogy elides significant historical and strategic dimensions. After all, today's geopolitical major powers—especially China—are poised to emulate the expansionism of the past are false and alarmist. In the case of China, it prioritises economic entanglement and infrastructure diplomacy over military adventurism.

Furthermore, the revival of Cold War binaries in the absence of a genuinely bipolar world risks distorting the actual dynamics of global power. China's ascent is not China's fundamental difference to the West's increasingly monocultural and homogenising strategic language.

Longstanding tensions over the river's resources have

spiked over dams in southern Afghanistan, particularly in periods of drought, which are likely to increase as climate shifts hit the region's water cycle.

Iran, facing pressure in its parched southeastern region, has repeatedly demanded that Afghanistan respects its rights, charging that upstream dams restrict the Helmand's flow into a border lake.—AFP



AN Afghan woman and children haul water cans on wheelbarrows along a deserted street in the drought-ridden village of Bolak in Balkh province.—AFP/FILE

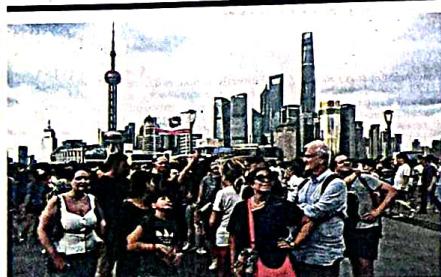
which Afghanistan has a formal water sharing treaty, agreed in 1973, over the Helmand river, which traverses Taliban heartland territory, but the accord was never fully implemented.

"There is an abundance of water, especially when the Amu Darya floods and glacial meltwater flows into it" in the warmer months, said Zabihullah Miri during a visit to the canal works in Faryab province, where diggers carved into a drought-ridden plain dotted with camels and locusts.

Iran to the west

Iran is the only country with

## NEWSMAKERS



### Chinese hotels upgrade service amid tourism boom

BEIJING: China's tourism boom is spurring upgrades in its hospitality sector, with shifting travel preferences and growing popularity of digital technologies spurring hotels to embrace cultural integration, artificial intelligence (AI) and international engagement.

In the first half of 2024, domestic tourism increased by 3.285 billion, up 20.5 per cent from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Summer travel is set to accelerate, with an estimated over 2.5 billion trips, according to data from the China Tourism Academy.

Hotels are feeling the heat. Jin Jiang Hotels, one of China's largest hotel groups, reported receiving more than 40.7 million guests in Chinese hotels in July. In addition to the robust demand, customers' hospitality demands are also changing.

"Chinese travelers are no longer satisfied with just a bed for the night. They seek immersive, multifaceted experiences that turn hotels into hubs of exploration and engagement," said Qian Kang, vice-president of Jin Jiang Hotels.

Integrating culture, leisure, sports with culture, commerce, tourism and sports has been identified as a major strategic opportunity for the hotel market in 2025, according to an industrial survey released earlier this year by hotel market observer Huamei Consulting Group.



SURABAYA: A student choir takes part in a ceremonial event to mark Indonesia's 60th Independence Day on Sunday.—AFP



JALANDHAR (East Punjab, India): A motorcyclist retrieves his bike stuck in a waterlogged street following heavy monsoon rain showers on Sunday.—AFP



COX'S BAZAR (Bangladesh): Rohingya refugee children learn to recite Holy Quran at a madressah inside a refugee camp on Sunday.—Reuters

They offer Huamei Consulting Group. In Jiangxi, Jin Jiang Hotels launched a culinary initiative, offering exclusive dining deals and immersive food tours. The group has also turned hotels into cultural and entertainment spaces: partnerships with comedy acts, performances, and "immersive theaters" across 12 cities. At the same time, architectural tours invite guests to explore urban heritage starting from hotel premises.—China Daily/ANN



LALITPUR (Nepal): Devotees light incense sticks as they offer prayers during a religious festival on Sunday.—AFP



PEOPLE inspect damage at the site of an Israeli air strike that targeted the Hazziz power station, south of Houthi-run Yemeni capital—AFP

## Israel targets Houthi energy site in Yemen

**JERUSALEM:** Israel said on Sunday it targeted an energy infrastructure site in Yemen's capital Sanaa, linked to the Houthi rebels behind repeated attacks on Israel during the conflict.

A military statement said Israeli forces "struck... deep inside Yemen, targeting an energy infrastructure site that served the Houthi regime" in the area of the rebel-held capital, without naming the site.

The Houthi rebels, Al-Masirah TV, citing a civil defence source, reported "an aggression targeting the Hazziz power station" south of the city. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

A spokesman reported significant damage at the site. An employee of the power station said that "two aggressive strikes by the Israeli enemy" hit the site in the early morning, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The Houthis have repeatedly fired missiles and drones at Israel, claiming to be acting in solidarity with the Palestinians.

Most Houthi attacks have been intercepted, but have prompted Israeli and US rebel targets in Yemen.

The military said its latest "strikes were conducted in response to

repeated attacks" by the Houthis.

On Sunday afternoon, the Israeli military said it intercepted another missile fired from Yemen, after sirens went off in several areas across the region.

Southern Europe is experiencing one of its worst wildfire seasons in two decades, with Spain among the hardest hit countries.

In the past week alone, fires there have claimed three lives and injured more than 115,000 hectares, while neighbouring Portugal also battles widespread blazes. Temperatures are expected to reach up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in some areas on Sunday. Spanish national weather agency AEMET said:

"There are still some challenging days ahead and, unfortunately, the weather is not on our side." Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told a news conference in Ourense, one of the most affected areas.

He announced an increase in military reinforcements, bringing the total number of troops deployed across Spain to 1,900.

Virginia Barcones, director general of emergency services, told Spanish public TV temperatures were expected to drop from Tuesday, but for now the weather conditions were "very

adverse".

"Today there are extremely high temperatures with an extreme risk of fires, which complicates the firefighting efforts," Barcones said.

Villagers resort to buckets

In the village of Villardeves in Galicia, desperate neighbours have organised to fight the flames on their own with water buckets as the area was left without electricity to power water pumps.

## Spain battles 20 major wildfires amid scorching heat

• Govt deploys more troops to support firefighting operations • PM Pedro Sanchez vows 'climate pact' on visit to fire-hit region

**VILLARDEVES:** Scorching heat hampered efforts to contain 20 major wildfires across Spain on Sunday, forcing the government to deploy an additional 500 troops from the military emergency unit to support firefighting operations.

In the northwestern region of Galicia, several fires have converged to form a large blaze, forcing the closure of airports and roads in the region.

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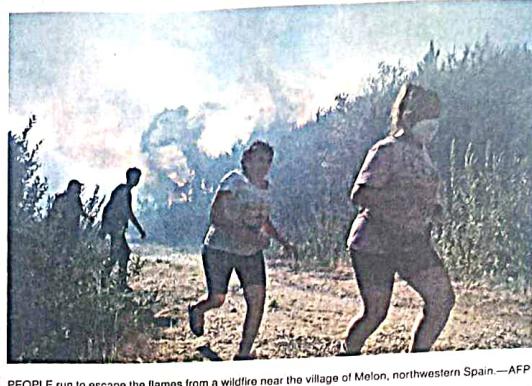
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PEOPLE run to escape the flames from a wildfire near the village of Melon, northwestern Spain.—AFP

## Northern China flash flood kills 10

**BEIJING:** At least 10 people died in a flash flood in northern China, which has triggered an emergency search and rescue operation.

China's state media reported on Saturday that two others were still missing, as the East Asian monsoon continues to unleash atmospheric chaos across the world's second largest economy.

The banks of a river running through the grasslands of Inner Mongolia burst around 10pm on Saturday, the report said, washing away 13 people camping on the outskirts of the city of Bayannur, a major agricultural hub.

A search and rescue operation involving more than 700 people is under way, according to state news agency Xinhua. One person has been rescued.

China has suffered weeks of extreme weather since July, battered by heavier-than-usual downpours with the monsoon moving over the north and south. Weather experts link the shifting pattern to climate change, testing officials as flash floods displace thousands and threaten billions of dollars in economic losses.

Bayannur is an important national grain and oil production base, as well as a sheep breeding and processing centre. At the other

end of the country, a three-and-a-half-month fishing suspension in the southern province of Hainan ended on Saturday, state media reported, after agricultural affairs officials ordered ships to shelter port owing to persistent, heavy rain.

In the southwestern province of Sichuan, severe weather on Friday killed two people and injured three others at a beer festival in the city of Mianzhu, after a truck fell on them, according to a local police report on Saturday.

Natural disasters are common across China, particularly in the summer, when some regions experience heavy rainfall while others experience heavy heating. The death toll from flash floods and mudslides in northwest China in early August was at least 13, state media said previously.

Heavy rain in Beijing in the north also killed four people last month, while the capital's rural suburbs were hardest hit, and another eight people died in a landslide in nearby Hebei province. Scientists said that human-driven climate change is causing more intense weather patterns that can make destructive floods more likely.—Agencies

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## Air Canada flight attendants continue strike

**MONTREAL:** Air Canada flight attendants remained on strike on Sunday, the deadline for a government-backed labour board's order to return to work, causing the country's biggest airline to delay restarting operations.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees said in a statement that members would remain on strike and invited Air Canada back to the table "to negotiate a deal," calling it in order to end the strike, which is unconstitutional.

The airline said it would delay plans to restart operations from Sunday until Monday evening.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal government moved to end the strike by more than 10,000 flight attendants by ask-

ing the Canada Industrial Relations Board to order binding arbitration. The CIRB issued the order, which Air Canada had sought, and unionized flight attendants opposed.

The Canada Labour Code gives the government the power to ask the CIRB to impose binding arbitration in the interest of protecting the economy.

The government's options to end the strike now include asking courts to enforce the order to return to work and seeking an expected hearing. The majority government could also try to pass legislation that would need the support of political rivals and approval in both houses of parliament, which is on break until Sept 15.—Reuters

## Sharaa hopes for Kurdish deal to prevent conflict

**AMMAN:** Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa has expressed hope that his country would avoid military conflict with US-backed Kurdish forces if efforts to integrate them into the state structure collapse.

In remarks late on Saturday to senior figures from Idlib, where he has mustered loyalist forces, Sharaa said he had held readiness for a meeting with a landmark deal in March to bring their Kurdish-run areas under state authority.

But their actions on the ground suggested otherwise, he told the publicised front. At the

times on the ground there are signals opposite what they say in the negotiations, Sharaa said. In addition, Washington, the main powers backing the deal to integrate Syria's oil-rich northeast into the state, wanted to resolve the issue peacefully, Sharaa said.

"The parties are pushing for a solution peacefully. I hope we don't enter into a dispute. I am hopeful in a few months we will resolve it," he said.

The collapse of follow-up talks since the March deal has escalated tensions in the region, triggering fresh clashes this month between government troops and the Kurdish-led, US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

Turkey-backed rebels have also reinforced their positions amid concerns over a potential large-scale escalation of the conflict, observers said. Ankara has voiced concern last month over Kurdish delays in implementing the March deal, urging faster progress.

Damascus reacted earlier this month angrily to a recent call for a referendum on greater decentralisation and which demanded a review of a constitutional declaration it said discriminated against minorities, a move officials said threatened Syria's territorial integrity.

Syrian officials said any military push against the SDF would rely on Turkish-backed factions

operating in northern Syria, adding that Ankara has grown impatient with what it sees as Kurdish foot-dragging.

Sharaa said those who sought partition were dreaming and insisted the country would not give up any stretch of territory. He also criticised Druze groups seeking support from Israel in their confrontation with Damascus.

Thousands joined a large Druze protest in Sweden on Saturday, demanding self-determination, hoisting Druze flags and pressing demands for military intervention that forced Syrian forces to retreat after hundreds of people were killed last month.—Reuters

## Iraq starts work on IS mass grave

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi authorities have begun excavating the site of a mass grave believed to contain the remains of victims of the militant Islamic State group near Mosul, the project's director said on Sunday.

The first team, which was launched on August 10, including surface-level excavation at the Khasifa site, director Ahmed Al-Assadi said. A correspondent visiting the site in non-Iraq in Sunday said the team unearthed human skulls buried in the sand.

Khasifa is located roughly 10 km west of Mosul and was established by the captives of their self-declared "caliphate" before they were defeated in Iraq in late 2017.

Assadi said that there were no precise figures for the numbers of victims buried there — one of dozens of mass graves IS left behind in Iraq — but a UN report from 2018 said Khasifa was likely the country's largest.

Official estimates put the number of bodies buried at the site at least 4,000, though the possibility of thousands more. The project's director said the victims buried there included fighters executed by IS\*, members of the Yazidi minority and residents of Mosul.

Exhuming the bodies from Khasifa is particularly difficult, Assadi said, as underground sulphur water may have burried at the earth very porous. The water may have obscured the human remains, complicating DNA identification of victims, he added.

Assadi said further studies will be required before his team can dig deeper and exhume bodies at the site — a sinkhole about 150-metre (nearly 500-foot) deep and 110-metre wide. Iraqi authorities said it was the site of "one of the worst massacres" committed by IS jihadists, executing 280 in a single day in 2016, many of whom were Inter-ministry employees.

In a lightning sequence that began in 2014, IS had seized large swathes Iraq and neighbouring Syria, enacting a strict interpretation of law and committing widespread abuses. The United Nations estimates the jihadis left behind more than 200,000 graves which might contain as many as 12 million bodies.

In addition to IS-era mass graves, Iraqi authorities continue to unearth such sites dating to the rule of Saddam Hussein, who was toppled in a US-led invasion in 2003.—AFP

Terence Stamp, actor who played Superman villain Zod, dies at 87

**LONDON:** Terence Stamp liked to recall how he was on the verge of becoming a tantric teacher at an ashram in India when, in 1977, he received a telegram from his London agent with news that he was being considered for the Superman role.

"I was on that night right the next day," Stamp said in an interview with his publisher Watkins Books in 2015. After a long delay out of work, getting the role of General Zod in *Superman and Superman II* turned the arch-villain General Zod into a Hollywood's highlight of the year.

"He leaves behind an extraordinary body of work, both as an actor and as a writer that will continue to touch and inspire people for years to come," the family said.

Stamp died on Saturday, his agent said. He was 87.

Stamp was born in London's East End in 1938, the son of a coal stoker and a mother who Stamp said gave him his zest for life. As a child he endured the bombing of the city during World War Two and the deprivations that followed. "It was a great blessing of fate that I had the real hard bit at the beginning," he said.

He left school to work initially as a messenger boy for an advertising firm and quickly moved up the ranks before he won a scholarship to drama school. Until then he had kept his acting ambitions secret from his

family for fear of disapproval.

"I couldn't tell anyone I wanted to be an actor because it was out of the question. I would have been laughed at," he said. He shot a small role and landed the lead role in Peter Ustinov's 1962 adaptation of "One Man, Two Guvnors", a story of brutality in the British Navy in the 18th century. That role earned him an Academy Award nomination and filled him with pride.

"To be cast by somebody like Ustinov was something that gave me a great deal of self-confidence in my career," Stamp said.

Stamp started shooting. "I just thought, 'Wow! This is it!' Famous for his good looks and impeccable dress sense, he formed one of Britain's most glamorous couples with Julie Christie, with whom he starred in *Far From the Madding Crowd* in 1967. "We had the love of our lives with her," he said. After failing to land the role of James Bond to succeed Sean Connery, Stamp took a change of scene. He appeared in Italian films and worked with Federico Fellini in 1968.

"I view my life really before and after Fellini," he said. "Being cast by him was the greatest compliment an actor could get."

Stamp was working in Rome when he appeared in Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Teorema* in 1968 and *A Season in Italy* in 1971, which Stamp met Indian spiritual speaker and writer Jiddu Krishnamurti in 1968. Krishnamurti taught the Englishman how to pause his thoughts and meditate, prompting Stamp to study yoga in India.

Stamp was his base but he spent long periods at the ashram in Puna, dressed in orange robes and growing his hair long, while learning the teachings of yogi, including tantric sex.

"There was a rumour around the ashram that I was preparing me to teach the tantric sex," he said in the 2015 interview with Watkins Books. "There was a lot of action going on!" After landing the role of General Zod, the megalomaniacal Kryptonian in *Superman* in 1978 and its sequel in 1980, both times opposite Christopher Reeves, he went on to appear in a string of other films, including as a transgender woman in *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* in 1994.

Stamp's other films included *Valkyrie* with Tom Cruise in 2008, *The Adjustment Bureau* with Matt Damon in 2011 and movies directed by Tim Burton. He counted Princess Diana among his friends.

"It wasn't a formal thing, but I'd have a chat for a cup of tea and she'd have a great laugh," he said. "Sometimes it would be very quick," he told the *Daily Express* newspaper in 2017. "In 2002, Stamp married for the first time at the age of 64 — to Elizabeth O'Rourke, a painter he met in 2000.

Asked by the Stage 32 website how he got film directors to believe in his talent, Stamp said: "I believed in myself. "Originally, when I didn't get cast I told myself there was a lack of discernment in them. This could be considered conceit. I look at it differently. Cherishing that divine spark in myself."—Reuters

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## 'DISASTER REFUGEES' ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

As climatic disasters riddle the region, Dawn's Gilgit correspondent recounts his own precarious journey from Sost to his hometown

By Jamil Nagri in Nagar Khas

IT was a bright morning when I set out from Gilgit towards Sost, a town perched near the Khunjerab Pass on the Karakoram Highway (KKH), our nation's Independence Day.

The sky was a flawless blue, but the land bore fresh wounds: roads torn apart like paper, fields drowned beneath salt-laden water, bridges twisted and broken.

The KKH, a lifeline for the region, runs alongside the Hunza-Nagar river. But here, swollen waters had swallowed farmland and trees, in places spilling into homes across the Gilgit, Hunza and Nagar districts. Elsewhere, too, the landscape was a tableau of devastation.

You see, in Gilgit-Baltistan, death doesn't announce itself. Even under spotless skies, clouds can gather around high peaks within minutes, unleashing furious rain and birthing floods that race down valleys.

The water changes its mind in an instant, giving people no time to escape, grab their belongings, or even each other.

When hearwicks grip the mountains, glacial lakes burst, sending walls of water thundering through sleeping villages.

Despite the mounting risks, no scientific studies have mapped these glaciers' moods, and no functional early warning systems are looking out for vulnerable areas.

I reached Sost by threading through the **Ses Valley** — the man-made road had been eaten by a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (Glof) from the Shishper glacier just days before.

The town greeted me with no electricity. In KKH, power lines had damaged transmission lines and a sudden flash flood had blocked the KKH at Gulmit, an area I had just crossed.

Internet and mobile networks were down — the flood had severed the optic fibre cable connecting GB to the outside world.

As a journalist, the complete communication and electricity blackout made me nervous. I needed to file my story, but we were marooned. In our desperation, we drove to Misgar village, climbing higher as we searched for a signal,



A PATIENT from flood-affected Daan area in Gilgit by a rescue team, as road access of the village remains cut off. —Photo by the writer

but found nothing.

By now, there was no way back to Alabad, the district headquarters of Hunza.

My hotel in Sost, a young voice from Chitpuron valley — a mere 40km away in normal circumstances — told me he hadn't heard his family's voice for a week.

"The road to Chitpuron valley was eroded by the river a week ago, and mobile communication in my village is disconnected," he said.

We returned to the blockade at Gulmit. Thousands of passengers, including those travelling to or from China via the Khunjerab Pass, were stranded on both sides, waiting for the road to reopen. The only way across was by foot, through the flood zone, with the help of local volunteers.

"I met Saeed, still trembling from what he'd witnessed. 'Twenty floods in just hours,' he said. 'Sweeping away everything in their path.'

I managed to cross the blockade and found a vehicle to take me towards Alabad. But before the KKH could be fully restored, another wave of floodwaters roared down the valley, halting work and making the passage impossible once again.

To help the stranded, locals started a boat service across Attabad Lake, where the flooded nullah now empties.

In Passu, families from Shimshal had sought refuge in roadside like refugees in their own land. The village Hunza's last outpost — had been cut off from the world for a week as floods and river erosion destroyed its access road in multiple locations.

When I finally reached Alabad, my phone crumbled. There was no internet or phone service, and a Gloc in Hunza had been cut off again, disconnecting the optic fibre cable.

Here, a newly constructed bridge on the KKH was closed. It was dark, and volunteers blocked the path forward. The only sound was the roaring flow of glacier water. Everyone was in shock, uncertain about which way the glacier would turn.

"The uncertainty of Shishper glacier's behaviour puts local residents at risk," one said.

My own journey home to Nagar Khas felt perilous. Rocks fell like bombs. The river lapped at what remained of the road, as if tasting, before deciding whether to swallow it whole.

In the village of Tokortok, I found my neighbours fleeing as the Hope nullah unleashed its fury.

"The flood intensity was too heavy. I have never experienced it in my life," said Niyat Ali, 75, pointing towards the nullah. "In our times, floods occurred under special circumstances, either continuous hearwicks or heavy rains, once or twice."

August 14 was the most disastrous day for the region, particularly for Ghizer residents, as cloudbursts flooded in 40 locations in a single day, killing ten people and destroying dozens of homes, bridges and roads.

Their devastation was sudden. People have no way to flee," said Naseem Anwar, a resident of Ghizer. "Local residents have never experienced such horrific devastation."

The geography that once blessed this region — dramatic peaks and pristine valleys — have been transformed. In Ghizer, lifelines have broken in too many places to count. The Baltistan Highway and Ghizer-Shandur road are also damaged, leaving much of the population stranded.

The local government, meanwhile, seems overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster.

"We don't have resources," GB Home Minister Shahzad Khan confessed.

Even volunteers who rushed to help became part of the tragedy; nine died trying to restore what nature had undone — two on the Fairy Meadows road, and seven repairing a water channel in the village of Tashkot. Some over 8,000 glaciers of GB, which once supported around 70pc of Pakistan's agriculture, are now rapidly melting away.

If this is just the beginning, I shudder to imagine what the endgame may look like.

It remains unclear how long the disruption will last or how much damage they have caused to Iranian drivers.

Iranian GPS spoofing around sensitive military sites but the recent disruptions have been the most sustained and widespread.

It remains unclear how long the disruption will last or how much damage they have caused to Iranian drivers.

Ride-hailing apps, delivery platforms, and even basic mapping services like Google Maps and its Iranian equivalent, Beidou, have buckled under the interference.

Many are confused as to exactly around Tehran, users often spot themselves on the maps hundreds of kilometres away from their actual locations.

For security and military purposes", without giving further explanation.

Missiles, drones and rockets often use GPS or other similar technologies, which involve triangulating signals from multiple satellites, to find their targets.

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## Dozen aid seekers among 40 more killed in Gaza

Israel signals plans to push civilians from Gaza City, supplying tents ahead of major assault • Hamas calls relocation plans 'a brutal assault' and 'blatant deception to cover up massacre' • Israelis rally seeking end to war, prisoner swap deal

GAZA STRIP: Israel's civil defence agency said Israeli attacks killed at least 40 people on Saturday, as the Israeli military hinted at an approaching call to push civilians from Gaza City ahead of offensive.

The latest fatalities more than a week after Israel's security cabinet approved plans to capture the Palestinian territory's largest city, following 22 months of war that have created dire humanitarian

According to the civil defence agency, at least 13 of the Palestinians killed on Saturday were shot by troops as they were waiting to collect food aid near distribution sites in the north and in the south.

"As part of the preparations to move the population from combat zones to the southern Gaza Strip for protection, the supply of tents and shelter equipment," the spokesman said.

Hamas told AFP the number of people killed on Saturday was part of a "brutal assault to occupy Gaza City."

Earlier, Gaza's civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said conditions in Gaza City's

Zeitung neighbourhood were rapidly deteriorating with residents having little to no access to food and water amid heavy Israeli bombardment.

The spokesman added that about 50,000 people were estimated to be in the area of Gaza City, "the majority of whom are without food or water" and lacking "the basic necessities of life".

Bassal told AFP the number of people killed in the central Gaza Strip on Saturday was 40.

On Friday, the Israeli military said its troops were operating in Zeitoun. Bassal said in a statement that Israeli forces had been carrying out a sustained offensive in the eastern and southern neighbourhoods of Gaza City, particularly in Zeitoun.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army's chief of staff said Sunday the military was advancing and preparing for the next phase of its Gaza offensive, with a focus on Gaza City.

"Today we are approving the plan for the next phase of the war," General Gadi Eizenkot said.

Zamir said during a field visit to the Palestinian territory, according to an army statement.

In response, Hamas said the plans would result in "a new wave of deaths and mass displacement".

The Palestinian group also condemned the proposals "a major war crime" which it said reflected Israel's "disgusting intentions and human rights violations".

Hamas said, in its statements on Sunday, that it was "not possible to make a peace deal with Israel".

Israelis rally Demonstrators across

Iran called on Sunday for an end to the Gaza war and a deal to release prisoners still held by Hamas, a push lambasted by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies.

The protests come more than a week after Israel's security cabinet approved plans to capture Gaza City.

A huge Israeli flag covered with portraits of the remaining captives was unfurled in Tel Aviv's so-called Hostage Square — which has long been a focal point for protests throughout the war.

Demonstrators also blockaded roads, including the highway connecting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem where they set tires on fire, according to local media reports.

Some Israeli government members who oppose the deal with Hamas slammed Sunday's demonstrations.

Famine warnings

The Israeli plans to expand the war in Gaza City and nearby refugee camps have sparked an international outcry as well as domestic opposition.

UN-backed experts have warned of widespread famine unfolding in Gaza where Israel has drastically curtailed the amount of humanitarian aid it allows in. — Agencies

SECURITY forces remove a protester from a street during a demonstration, calling for government action to secure prisoners' release and an end to war. —AFP

European leaders to join Zelensky in US today amid pressure for deal

Rubio says both sides need to make concessions to end war

being 'ungrateful' and 'disrespectful'.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will also travel to Washington, as will Finland's President Alexander Stubb, whose access to Trump includes rounds of golf in Florida earlier this year, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who is an admirer of many of Trump's policies.

"It's important that Washington is with us," Zelensky said alongside von der Leyen on a visit to Brussels, saying the current front lines in the war should be the basis for peace talks.

"Putin does not want to stop the killing but he must do it."

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hosted a meeting of allies on Sunday to bolster Zelensky's position, hoping in particular to lock down robust security guarantees for Ukraine that would include a quick peace deal.

Trump is leaning on Zelensky to strike a deal, he said. "He has to meet with him," Zelensky said alongside von der Leyen on a visit to Brussels, saying the current front lines in the war should be the basis for peace talks.

"As I have often said, Ukraine must become a steel porcupine, indigestible for potential invaders," she said.

European powers want security guarantees for Ukraine with US involvement, and the ability to crank up pressure on Moscow if needed.

Speaking to CBS on Sunday, Rubio said both Ukraine and Russia would need to come to some kind of peace deal and that "Russia should be discussed its territory."

"As I have often said, Ukraine must become a steel porcupine, indigestible for potential invaders," she said.

European allies are keen to help Zelensky avoid a repeat of his last Oval Office meeting, in February.

That went disastrously, with Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance giving the Ukrainian leader a public dressing-down, accusing him of

"We're not saying we're on the verge of a peace deal, but I am saying that we saw movement, enough movement to justify a follow up if no deal was reached."

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"I'm not saying we're on the

meeting with Zelensky and the Europeans, enough movement for us to dedicate even more time to this," Rubio said.

However, he said the US may not be able to create a scenario to end the war.

"The war is not going to be possible here and this is just genius; to continue on as a war, people will continue to die by the thousands... we may unfortunately wind up there, but we don't want to wind up there," Rubio said in an interview with "Face of the Nation."

Very big power

For his part, Putin briefed his close ally, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko about the Alaska talks, and also spoke with Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

On Friday, Putin said that Ukraine should make a deal to end the war because "Russia is a very big power, and they're not".

After the Alaska summit, Trump phoned Zelensky and told him that the Kremlin chief had agreed to a deal.

Russia would not accept some limits if Ukraine ceded all of Donetsk, the industrial region that is one of Moscow's main targets, a source familiar with the matter said.

Zelensky rejected the demand. Russia already controls a fifth of Ukraine and is about three-quarters of Donetsk province, which it first entered in 2014.

Trump also said he agreed with Putin that a peace deal should be sought without the prior ceasefire that Ukraine and its European allies called. "There was a summit, when he said he would not be happy unless a ceasefire was agreed on." — Reuters

Iranian security forces kill seven militants

TEHRAN: Iranian security forces on Sunday killed seven members of a militant group in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, state media reported.

Deputy provincial governor Ali Velayati said the gunmen, all members of the Ansar al-Furqan group, were killed on Saturday in a clash between security forces and Baluchi minority rebels.

The militants intended to attack sensitive centres and military and law enforcement bases", Velayati said.

Iran has designated Al-Furqan "a terrorist", expert said. Last year, the group claimed a suicide attack that killed a police officer, also in Sistan-Baluchestan.

The provinces which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan are some of Iran's poorest, and a frequent site of clashes between security forces and Baluchi minority rebels.

On Saturday, gunmen killed a police officer in a shootout in the province, with the militant group Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) claiming responsibility.

The group, based across the border in Pakistan, has claimed multiple attacks in recent years, including an assault on a court house last month that left at least six people dead. —AFP

coupled with years-long internet restrictions, have damaged businesses and created "social distrust and despair".

But experts say that replacing GPS "could be complex".

"Doing so would require extensive and costly infrastructure changes," said Amir Rashedi of the US-based Misnai group, adding that Iran is currently "highly vulnerable in cyberspace".

Many in Iran believe that the country's future is bleak, with Israel on the horizon as Israel and the United States continue to threaten attack if Iran restarts its nuclear programme, which has been on hold.

"Everything is uncertain, and we can't plan. The future is unclear," said Mohammad Hossein Ghiasi, a 32-year-old Snap app driver. "We don't know whether the war will break out again or what will happen next." —AFP

## Iranians struggle with GPS disruption after Israel war

Navigation activity on Neshan falls by 20pc

TEHRAN: The streets of Tehran have become a confusing maze for driver Farshad Fooladi amid widespread GPS disruption, still ongoing nearly two months after the end of Israel's unprecedented 12-day war.

"For weeks I have been unable to work," said Fooladi, who uses Iran's homegrown ride-hailing app Snapp to find customers. "Most of the time was wasted wandering around aimlessly," the 32-year-old said.

Unprecedented disruption has plagued users of GPS, which stands for Global Positioning System, in Iran since Israel's surprise attack in mid-June which triggered a deadly 12-day war.

Iran's communications ministry has said the disruptions were neces-

sary for "security and military purposes", without giving further explanation.

Missiles, drones and rockets often use GPS or other similar technologies, which involve triangulating signals from multiple satellites, to find their targets.

Iran has been employing GPS jamming and spoofing around sensitive military sites but the recent disruptions have been the most sustained and widespread.

It remains unclear how long the disruption will last or how much damage they have caused to Iranian drivers.

Ride-hailing apps, delivery platforms, and even basic mapping services like Google Maps and its Iranian equivalent, Beidou, have buckled under the interference.

In many areas, Iranians have lost themselves on the maps hundreds of kilometres away from their actual locations.

Iran's communications ministry has said the disruptions were neces-

sary for "security and military purposes", compounded by the revival of US President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign earlier this year.

Nuclear talks with Washington, which began in April, have also stalled since the United States joined itself to strike Iranian nuclear sites in June.

"Nuclear talks with Washington, which began in April, have also stalled since the United States joined itself to strike Iranian nuclear sites in June.

"This war has upended our lives and affected our future plans," said Fooladi.

In a report last week, the *Khobar Online* news agency warned against the disruption of GPS, saying it caused "collateral damage to digital economy and public safety, including delays to emergency services".

Former communications minister Mohammad Javaid Azari Jahromi argued the disruption was costly and would likely have limited effects.

"Collateral damage to digital economy and public safety, including delays to emergency services," he said.

Fooladi said Iran was "drafting a program" so some of the country's location-based services for transport, agriculture could "gradually migrate from GPS to Beidou". He acknowledged disruptions in Iran, which has been on hold.

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## **Dawn Editorial important key points**

**Date:18 August 2025, Group Fee:250/-**

**For Daily Dawn Newspaper Group:03229117651**

**By Numan khan**

### **Editorial No:01**

**Fragile Stability in Pakistan's Economy (important For Current Affairs Paper)**

#### **1. Recent Economic Improvements**

- **Declining Inflation:** Inflation has slowed sharply due to global drops in oil and commodity prices.
- **Increased Reserves:** Foreign exchange reserves have climbed above \$14 billion, supported by debt rollovers, remittances, and strict import controls.
- **Current Account Surplus:** The external account is in surplus, easing pressure on the rupee.
- **Reduced Fiscal Deficit:** Achieved mainly through IMF-prescribed austerity measures, including cuts in development spending.
- **Rating Agency Upgrades:** Global agencies have improved Pakistan's sovereign rating, signaling restored market confidence.

#### **2. Persistent Weaknesses in the Economy**

- **Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) Decline:**
  - LSM shrank by **0.74%** last year, missing the government's modest **3.5% growth target**.
  - LSM has been in **low growth or contraction for three consecutive years**, contributing only **8% to GDP**.
  - While **June saw 4.14% YoY growth**, the **3.67% month-on-month decline shows recovery remains fragile**.
- **Structural Issues Hindering Growth:**
  - **High energy costs** (higher than regional peers).
  - **Weak investment** due to elevated borrowing costs.
  - **Heavy tax burden** on the corporate sector.
  - **Policy unpredictability** discouraging long-term business planning.
  - **Informal import restrictions** (including raw materials) due to dollar shortages.



## **Daily One Guess Essay For CSS Exam 2026**

**Date: 18 August 2025, Group Fee: 250/-**

**For Daily Dawn Newspaper Group: 03229117651**

**By Numan Khan**

**Essay Title:**

**World a Global Village: Learning to Live Together**

**Topic Statement:**

The world has become a global village due to technology, fostering unity and cooperation among diverse cultures.

**Outlines:**

**1. Introduction**

**2. Evolution of Civilization**

**3. What Does “Global Village” Mean?**

**4. Key Characteristics of Global Village**

- a) Global Connectivity
- b) Advanced and Efficient Transportation
- c) Highly Efficient Communication Networks
- d) E-Banking and E-Marketing Reduce Physical Interaction
- e) Global and Regional Cooperation

**5. Global Village Helps Humanity Live Together**

- a) Adopting Good Practices for Prosperity
- b) Promoting Interfaith Harmony
- c) Bringing Peace Among Civilizations
- d) Identifying Conflicts at Different Levels
- e) Ensuring Dialogue to Promote Peace
- f) Encouraging Cultural Diffusion
- g) Guarding Individual Respect and State Sovereignty

**6. Conclusion**

**Essay**



## **Criminology Complete Notes**

**For Daily Dawn Newspaper Group:03229117651**

**By Numan khan**

### **Chapter :01**

#### **Basics Concept**

- ❖ Crime, Criminality and Criminal Behavior
- ❖ Understanding Criminology
- ❖ Crime and Criminal
- ❖ Crime and Criminality: Theoretical Perspective
- ❖ Classical School of Thought
- ❖ Positivist School Of Thought
- ❖ Sociological Theory
- ❖ New Classical School
- ❖ Behavior of Criminal Law
- ❖ Islamic Perspective of Crime

#### **Crime, Criminality, and Criminal Behavior**

##### **Crime, Criminality and Criminal Behavior**

**Crime** is a common part of human life. It has existed for as long as humans have been on Earth. The word *crime* comes from the Latin word *crimen*, which meant "accusation." Later, in the 12th century, the French used the word *crimen* to mean "fault" or "sin." The word *crime* first appeared in English in the 13th century, and it still carries a similar meaning today.

Crime threatens the peace and order of any society. No country or society is completely free from crime, even though the number of crimes may vary from place to place. Every state faces the challenge of reducing crime to maintain peace and safety. Crimes usually harm people's lives or their property. Therefore, it is the state's basic duty to protect its citizens from crimes. In short, preventing crime is one of the state's most important responsibilities.

##### **Definition of Crime**



## Daily Dawn Idioms

**Date:17 August 2025, Group Fee:250/-**

**For Daily Dawn Newspaper Group:03229117651**

**By Numan khan**

### Idioms

#### On the face of it

- **English Meaning:** At first glance; apparently; the way something looks at the beginning.
- **Urdu Meaning:** بظاہر، اوپر اور سے دیکھنے پر
- **Example:** *On the face of it, the committee looks effective, but it may not solve issues.*

#### At best / At worst

- **English Meaning:** Used to describe the most optimistic and the most pessimistic outcome of something.
- **Urdu Meaning:** بہترین صورت میں / بدترین صورت میں
- **Example:** *The car export plan is ambitious at best and unrealistic at worst.*

#### Rhetoric aside

- **English Meaning:** Ignoring promises or fine words, and looking at reality.
- **Urdu Meaning:** بڑی بڑی باتوں کو چھوڑ کر حقیقت دیکھنا
- **Example:** *Rhetoric aside, government policy has made imported cars cheaper than local ones.*

#### Swarming with (something)

- **English Meaning:** Filled or crowded with something in large numbers.
- **Urdu Meaning:** کثرت سے بھر جانا، بحوم ہونا
- **Example:** *Without tax cuts, the market will be swarming with imported cars.*



## **Dawn Opinion important key points**

**Date: 17 August 2025, Group Fee: 250/-**

**For Daily Dawn Newspaper Group: 03229117651**

**By Numan khan**

### **Opinion No:01**

**Pakistan-US Counterterrorism Rapprochement important For Current Affairs Paper)**

#### **1. Recent Surge in Pakistan-US Relations**

- **Uncertain Motives:** It is unclear whether the improved relations stem from Pakistan's strategy to reduce the trust deficit or from broader US geopolitical interests.
- **Root Causes of Distrust:**
  - Divergent approaches to Afghanistan.
  - Pakistan's strong commitment to CPEC and its alignment with China as an alternative to the US.

#### **2. Counterterrorism (CT) Cooperation as a Key Driver**

- **Historical Context:** CT cooperation dates back to 2001 post-9/11 but has been strained by mutual distrust.
- **Recent Developments:**
  - Pakistan quietly increased CT support to the US, leading to renewed engagement.
  - The latest CT dialogue in Islamabad signaled willingness to expand cooperation.
- **US Designations of Terrorist Groups:**
  - **Majeed Brigade (BLA's military wing)** designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), seen as balancing India's earlier diplomatic win with the **Resistance Front** (linked to LeT) designation.
  - The US framed these designations as internal procedural moves, not concessions to either India or Pakistan.